



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Tenant Activists Take Aim at Zephyr

By Suzanne Herel

Tenant activists on a quest to preserve rental stock in the city have targeted Zephyr Real Estate as a company unfriendly to renters.

On June 3, several dozen representatives of the San Francisco Tenants Union staged a noon picket outside the firm's 24th Street office.

"Stop evictions for condo conversions," some of the signs read.

The action spotlighted a drive to put an initiative on the November ballot that would curtail condominium conversions. To do so, the tenants union needs to collect 15,000 signatures by July 10.

Fliers advertising the rally called Zephyr a leader in Ellis Act evictions and sneaky condo conversions that are squeezing out renters.

"We wanted to raise awareness of the fact that there are so many evictions being done for conversions and there are real estate companies promoting these evictions," said Ted Gullicksen, office manager of the SFTU.

"Zephyr is one of the leading players in real estate speculation," he said. "Real estate investors are buying up buildings, evicting tenants under the Ellis Act, and then using loopholes in the condo conversion law."

Zephyr manager Randall Kostick called Gullicksen's claims unfounded. "We don't do any more tenancies in common or condominium conversions than anyone else in town," he said.

Many of Zephyr's clients, he said, are first-time home buyers. "One of the things we're proud of is representing tenants who have become owners," he said. "Isn't that the American dream?"

Gullicksen wasn't swayed. "These



The San Francisco Tenants Union held a demonstration in front of Zephyr Realty's 24th Street office on June 3. The protesters accused Zephyr of contributing to tenant evictions in San Francisco; Zephyr disputes the claim.

Photo by Charles Kennard

days, first-time home buyers are people with money moving into San Francisco," he said. "Very few San Franciscans can even qualify for a mortgage."

According to affordability studies by the National Association of Realtors, many current homeowners wouldn't be able to land a mortgage if they were buying for the first time in the current market. Gullicksen said his group's initiative would help protect those who can't afford to buy by making it more difficult to take rental units off the market.

Currently, the city limits condo conversions to 200 per year, but that cap is due to expire at the end of 2000. The initiative would retain the cap.

There are also ways to get around the

law. Owners can evict tenants through the Ellis Act (take their property off the rental market), or they can conduct a "move-in eviction," i.e., move in themselves.

A third way is for groups of people to buy a building together, each taking ownership of an individual apartment. This method, called tenancies in common—or TICs—is not restricted by the city. But it would be, if the union's initiative succeeds: TICs would be included in the condo conversion cap of 200.

This last provision is controversial, even among tenants.

"If we stop people from doing 'tenancies in common,' we will take away the

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Noe Valley Library May Be Quakeproofed If Bond Passes

By Olivia Boler

It looks as if the seismically unfit Noe Valley Library is going to be a poster child for a new city-sponsored bond measure.

On May 18, administrators from the San Francisco Public Library and the Department of Public Works (DPW) held a public meeting at the Eureka Valley Library at which they unveiled plans to put a \$129 million bond measure on the November ballot.

The bond issue, dubbed the "Branch Library Improvement Bond," would fund seismic upgrades, disabled access, and other renovations at 19 of San Francisco's 26 branch libraries. The money would also go toward constructing six new library buildings.

According to DPW architect Jorge Alfaro, who spoke at the May meeting, the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street would be one of the first branches to receive funding for renovations. That's because it is in dire need of a retrofit. For years now, the Noe Valley branch has had a seismic hazard rating of 4, the worst rating a building can receive. In the event of a major earthquake—7.0 or higher on the Richter scale—the building's walls or roof could cave in.

Children's Room in Most Danger

Acting City Librarian Susan Hildreth said the age of the building was another concern. She pointed out that the Noe Val-

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Savor Hosts King and Queen Of Jordan

By Steve Steinberg

It wasn't your ordinary brunch at Savor, the popular 24th Street eatery last month. After all, it's not every day that the king of Jordan, or any king for that matter, comes to Noe Valley for a crepe and jalapeño jelly. But that's exactly what happened on Sunday, June 4, when King Abdullah bin Al Hussein, the new ruler of Jordan, and his wife, Queen Rania, stopped by Savor for some food and relaxation.

The royal couple arrived on 24th Street around midmorning in a motorcade of 10 to 12 cars. According to Maher Fakhouri, Savor's owner, the motorcade double-



Jordan's King Abdullah and Queen Rania (sitting together at right) dined on crepes and pancakes at 24th Street's Savor Restaurant on June 4.

Photo courtesy of Savor

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NOE BUYS / NOE RENTS

Two Million-Dollar May

Here are the latest figures on house sales and apartment rentals, supplied to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate and Rent Tech Rentals. (Note that these house sales occurred in May 2000, and that the rental data covers apartments rented January through March 2000. In both surveys, "Noe Valley" is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets.)

In assessing the May numbers, Zephyr manager Randall Kostick said, "This is the first month in history that the *average* sale price in Noe Valley has exceeded a million dollars." Two single-family homes—one in the 200 block of 27th Street, and another in the 400 block of Alvarado—sold for more than \$2 million. However, Kostick expects a cooling trend over the summer. "Although we're still seeing some houses getting multiple offers, we're also seeing houses that are being reduced in price and not selling in the first two weeks. Also, there's slightly more inventory."—*Sally Smith, ed.*

Noe Valley House Sales – May 2000*

Total Sales	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Average Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
<i>Single-family homes</i>					
13	603,500	2,152,000	1,161,577	18	140%
<i>Condominiums</i>					
7	312,500	650,000	454,285	18	108%
<i>2 to 4 unit buildings</i>					
8	651,000	1,527,000	929,000	26	115%
<i>5+ unit buildings</i>					
0	—	—	—	—	—

Noe Valley Rentals – First Quarter 2000**

Apartment Size	Average Rents Today (Jan – Mar 2000)	Rents 4 Years Ago (Jan – Mar 1996)	% Units Available for Rent in Noe Valley
<i>Studio</i>	\$ 1,115 / mo.	\$ 675 / mo.	9%
<i>1 bedroom</i>	1,625 / mo.	990 / mo.	25%
<i>2 bedrooms</i>	2,400 / mo.	1,375 / mo.	40%
<i>3 or more bedrooms</i>	2,850 / mo.	2,110 / mo.	25%

*Information provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* courtesy of Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) and based on Noe Valley home sales recorded May 1–31, 2000.

**Data based on Noe Valley rentals listed by Rent Tech Rentals and Roommates (www.renttech.com) for January–March 2000, and for the same period in 1996. The next *Voice* will cover rents April–June 2000.



We Gotta Say Goodbye for the Summer

It's the time of the year when the *Voice* staff can stop envying readers like Rachel King, pictured above, and do our own traveling beyond the boundaries of this neighborhood. Ms. King wasn't on vacation in Ohio, she was attending the American Red Cross national convention as a youth services representative. We may do something work related, too—or not. At least you can count on us being out of the office and away from our keyboards and phones until August, when we'll start work on our September issue. Your deadline for getting editorial stuff to us at 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, is Aug. 15. If you're buying display ad space, you have until Aug. 18 to get in touch with Steve at 239-1114. Have a good one yourself.

—The eds.



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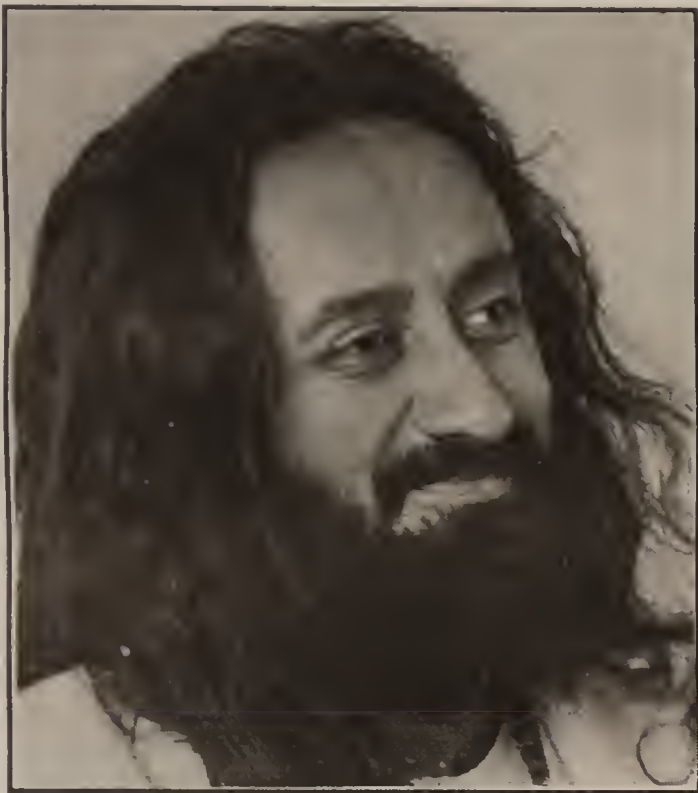
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LETTERS 33¢

A Streetcar Named Perspire

Editor:

I would just like to thank all those people who chose to live along Church Street and then whined and harangued about the noise of the new Breda Muni cars [March and July 1997; July 1998 *Voice*]. Well, for the past two years now, all we have seen rolling down our J-line are the old Boeing cars, and there is no sign that any new cars will ever arrive.

Because of you, Noe Valley's main public transportation link to downtown breaks down more often, is more overcrowded, has more constrained loading and unloading, and on hot days is completely un-air-conditioned (and Noe Valley is the warmest neighborhood that any S.F. light rail travels through!).

Church Street residents remind me of people who move near the airport and then complain how loud the jets are. Get over yourselves!

Mark Olson
22nd Street

I Shall Not Seek, Nor Will I Accept

Editor:

I was dismayed to see my name listed in your June issue as a possible candidate for supervisor in District 8.

While I was considering a run at one time, I decided against it once Eileen Hansen entered the race.

To set the record straight, I am not running for supervisor in District 8 or any other district. I am a strong supporter of Eileen Hansen for supervisor. I have known her for eight years, and am impressed with her integrity and her commitment to the same struggles I am committed to. I worked with Eileen on the Tom Ammiano campaign (she was not, as your story stated, involved in re-electing Willie Brown), as well as numerous other progressive causes, including the Castro Tenants Union and the Living Wage Campaign.

In fact, Eileen has worked for many years on progressive causes, including economic justice, tenants' rights, a shelter for homeless queer youth, women's issues, AIDS, etc. She is a tireless crusader and will make a damn good supervisor. She not only has my full support, but I am also part of her election team.

Tommi Avicolli Mecca
States Street

Hansen Is Off and Running

Editor:

Thank you to writer Karen Topakian for focusing attention on district elections coming soon to our neighborhoods [June 2000 *Voice*]. It is so important for *Voice* readers to become involved in an effort that offers a unique opportunity for neighborhood-based power and for the establishment of a balance of power between the mayor and Board of Supervisors. We have a wonderful chance in District 8 to challenge the direction the mayor and his team have been taking our city. I hope to be your choice for supervisor in District 8.

Unfortunately, in the sidebar in the June issue, I was most incorrectly identified as a strategist for Willie Brown; in fact, I was a strategist for Tom Ammiano in the mayor's race and now am pleased to have Ammiano's endorsement for supervisor. I have also been endorsed by a former president of the Board of Supervisors, Angela Alioto, and by many others.

My opponent, Mark Leno, was appointed to the board by Mayor Brown, and enjoys his full support—along with the support of the political establishment. I look forward to challenging politics-as-usual in this city and to raising issues critical to Noe Valley and the other neighborhoods in District 8: neighborhood

character, housing affordability, among others. Please join our grassroots campaign run by your neighbors. You can reach us at 701-7334 or www.eileenhansenSF8.com. Or write P.O. Box 14192, S.F., CA 94114.

Eileen Hansen

Candidate for San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 8

Noe Venable's 'Moon of Pearls'

Editor:

A belated comment on Joe Quirk's "The Versatile Noe Venable," which I've just read on the Internet [noevalleyvoice.com May 2000]:

Though most of the articles I've read about Noe Venable have been highly complimentary, they tend to focus on superficial aspects of her and her music: namely, her eccentricity and the dark subject matter of her lyrics—as if this were the main source of her appeal.

How astonishing, then, to read sentences like: "Triumphant in her uniqueness, Venable seems proud of her wry wit and impish smile, or as she sings it, her 'moon of pearls'.... When she sings, her face betrays her. It overflows with wonder. In Venable's shining eyes, you can still see the kid who might show up dressed as a seahorse."

Quirk writes as one who genuinely understands and appreciates talent; who can see beyond the surface, into the inner light behind those shining eyes.

As a writer myself, I admire Quirk's ability to convey what he sees in Noe Venable. As a human being, I admire his ability to see it.

Kevin Delaney
Los Angeles



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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and manuscripts, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned manuscripts will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Union Wants to Make 'Tenancies In Common' Uncommon

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only alternative the average person has left to become a homeowner in San Francisco," said Kostick. "Then only the rich will be able to buy homes here."

Gullicksen argues, however, that many TIC partnerships are formed by well-heeled investors and are simply a way to skirt the condominium conversion cap. "Every time a unit gets converted, it means people are being evicted," he said. "It's just bad social and housing policy to create ownership for people with money by evicting people without money."

The tenants union also objects to local realtors' practice of listing properties as "Vacant" or "Delivered Vacant," which only encourages evictions. "These condos are being sold empty because the tenants are being evicted," Gullicksen said.

Kostick is equally upset about the "downright false information" on the tenants union literature distributed at last month's protest. He also maintains that the union isn't distinguishing between the actions of Zephyr agents and their clients.

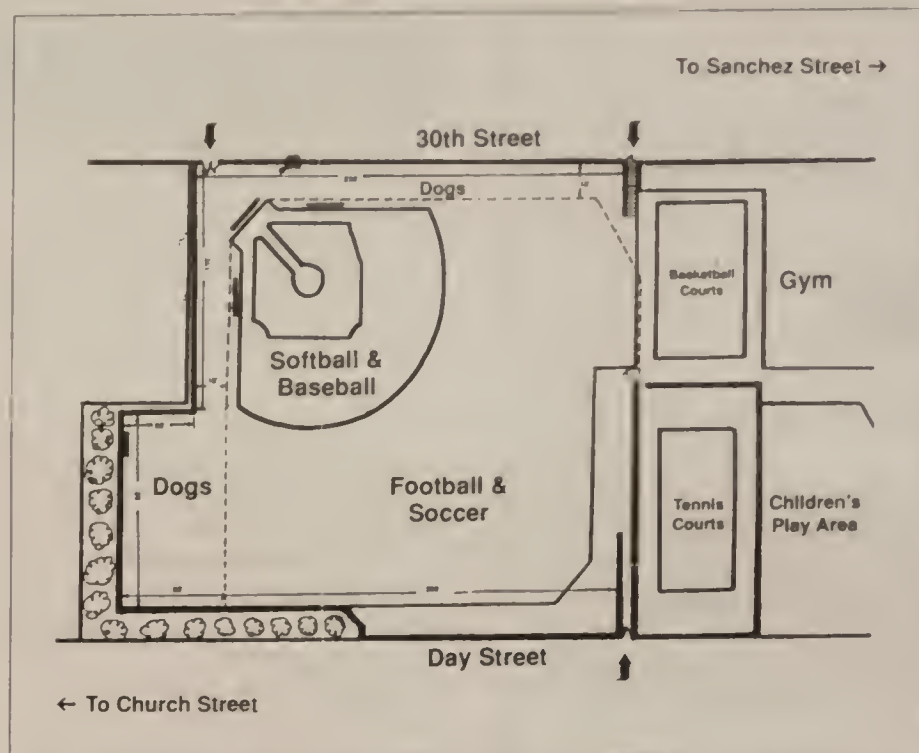
One person the recent picket did single out was Zephyr agent Bonnie Spindler. Spindler, the tenants union flier said, is on her second owner-move-in eviction and just made a half-million-dollar profit on a four-unit building that she bought and emptied of tenants.

Spindler tells a different story. She did evict a tenant so she could live in a home she owned. But that was eight years ago, and Spindler still lives there.

And she admits to using the Ellis Act to evict tenants of another building she owns on Scott Street. "The Ellis Act was forced on me," she said. According to Spindler, the city declared illegal two of her building's four units, saying she needed to replace their kitchens. When the tenants blocked her permit, she said, she evicted them.

But Spindler's main point is that "people who buy a building need to be able to move into the building they've bought. That's becoming impossible."

Meanwhile, the tenants union plans to continue its campaign of selective picket lines. Gullicksen said union members will visit other realtors around the city, as well as open houses—some of which are expected to be in Noe Valley. □



A map provided by the city's Recreation and Park Department shows the areas where dogs can run free in Day Street Park starting July 15.

July 15 Is Opening Day for Dog Run at Day Street Park

After months of ogling the freshly sprouted green grass, neighborhood dogs, toddlers, ballplayers, joggers, picnickers, and sky gazers will finally get a chance to try out the new field at Upper Noe Recreation Center, also called Day Street Park. At a community meeting in June, Rec and Park officials announced that the field will reopen on July 15. (It has been closed since September for resodding and sprinkler repair.) The renovated field will sport two new features. It will have a second entrance on 30th Street, closer to Church Street. And the park will have a new, fenced-in dog exercise area along the east and south sides.

Acting Rec and Park Supervisor Dan McKenna stressed that the V-shaped dog run will be the only part of the field where canines can romp off-leash. The rest of the field—including the baseball diamond and the large grassy area opposite the tennis courts—is for human use only, he said. He also said the dog run would be operated for three months on a trial basis. After 90 days, the city will hold a second community meeting to evaluate how the dog run is working. "Before we have to bear the cross of ruining the entire field and have to listen to public safety complaints, we want to establish a permanent dog run for off-leash dogs," McKenna said.

—Heidi Anderson

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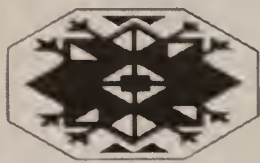
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LETTERS 33¢

Y Build the Garage?

Editor:

My wife picked up the *Noe Valley Voice* and read the article on the new Mission Y planned for construction on Castro between 25th and Clipper in Noe Valley [June 2000 issue]. She was happy to hear about a new Y until she got to a quote from the YMCA staff about how a two-story underground parking garage would be a "critical component" of the project. She wondered why something near two cross-town bus routes (the 24 and 48) that allow people a quick connection to BART and all Muni streetcar lines would need a big parking garage.

Noe Valley has no parking garages, yet has a thriving business district. The relative lack of traffic means Noe Valley is quiet and safe, especially for children. The 48-Quintara usually has a lot of riders, and the more reliable and frequent 24-Divisadero always picks up at least a dozen people on 24th Street. Adding more frequency to those two bus routes would impact the neighborhood far less than bringing in thousands more daily car trips to Clipper and Castro.

Dean Ruggles
Chattanooga Street

San Francisco are among the lowest paid in the state? And our state is in the bottom five nationwide? We spend less per student than 40 other states. These are not problems that teachers can be held accountable for. Ultimately, all eligible voters are the guilty parties.

All of the adults at James Lick are saddened and frustrated at the events making the news in the past couple of years. We all feel badly about the way the kids behave on the bus and in front of your homes. But what would you have us do?

As it is, we work long hard hours at school and are paid very badly for it. We can't ride the bus home with the students and patrol all neighborhoods! We do patrol the area around the school immediately after school. It's a duty that most of us feel must be done. But I have to admit that I wonder sometimes if all my training and expertise are being well utilized standing in Rite Aid at 3:30 watching kids buy candy.

The good news is that we're doing a pretty good job of making the kids behave properly in the classroom, so that all students have an opportunity to learn. All the indicators show that our kids' scores are going up! In spite of the odds, we are making progress. Isn't it the test scores we're supposed to be working on?

We're facing a huge teacher turnover at Lick this year and are desperately trying to find qualified people to fill the positions. However, I'm working with a team of people who are dedicated, exceptional teachers and administrators who will make the best of the situation.

We'll have to train those new teachers. We will continue to spend hours debating, reflecting, and working on our relationships with the disenfranchised segment of our student body—the children who may grow up to be the disenfranchised adults who have a hard time being contributing members of our society. We will do what teachers and parents have always done. We will love and protect our children.

But they're your children, too. Please look at them compassionately. This neighborhood is, in a way, foreign territory to them. The kids don't see that they could own a home in Noe Valley. Many are unfamiliar with the shops and restaurants that aren't a part of their daily grazing territory. You may not act like the adults they're used to interacting with. Like many disenfranchised people, they frequently lash out in frustration. Your anger doesn't help.

What would help is your investment in the public schools. Demand that your representatives put more money and effort into our school system. Send your children to public school and get involved. (By the way, we have a great participating parent group. It's just way too small.) Pay attention to what the school board is doing. Visit our school. Volunteer to work with the kids.

It's so easy to sit across the street and criticize. Come in and see what's really going on. We have two open-house days a year, and we always welcome visitors. There is a neighborhood/school committee. Join it! The fact is that most people who come in and visit are impressed with what we're doing here.

I admit the problems are large and run deep in our society. The solutions are complicated and difficult to implement. But I urge you to become part of the solution by exercising your right to vote, participate, speak out, and understand.

Connie Hendrix
Curriculum and Technology
Integration Specialist
James Lick Middle School
1220 Noe Street

Give Kids, Teachers a Break

Friends and Neighbors:

I am writing in response to the May story and June letters in the *Voice* regarding James Lick Middle School. The issues are much more complicated than rowdy children who behave badly on the bus and in the neighborhood; or children who pour nail polish remover in a teacher's water; or even teachers and administrators who seem unable to control the kids.

Those of you who went to public school before Prop. 13 really have no idea what California's public schools are faced with today. Over the past 20 years, the resources and funding for California schools have gone from best in the nation to nearly worst. The budget squeeze now has a stranglehold on us, which is causing trouble in more places than just the schools.

Do you know that JLMS students come from all over town? Do you know that over 70 percent live in poverty? Do you know that the people who decide how many prisons we need project their figures by looking at the fourth-grade reading scores? Do you know that teachers in

Correction

In our story on district elections in the June issue, the *Noe Valley Voice* mistakenly identified District 8 candidate for supervisor Eileen Hansen as a strategist for Willie Brown's mayoral campaign. In fact, she was an adviser to Tom Ammiano, Brown's opponent in the November 1999 election. The *Voice* apologizes for the error.

LETTERS 33¢

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send email to jaxvoice@aol.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) You may also send us mail via our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com. Note that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.

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Noe Valley Library Could Be a Poster Child for November Ballot Measure

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ley Library is one of the country's prized "Carnegie" libraries, financed by industrialist Andrew Carnegie during the first half of the 20th century. A two-story brick structure with an ornate terra-cotta entranceway, the branch was designed by architect John Reid and built in 1916.

The library's floor plan is in the shape of a "T," with the top of the "T" housing the main reading room (the north wing), and the stem the smaller children's room (the south wing). What is most at risk in the event of an earthquake is the children's room. The south wing has unreinforced masonry walls and a poorly connected roof. With enough ground shaking, the room's ceiling could collapse.

A report by city engineers suggests demolishing and rebuilding the stem of the "T," while preserving and strengthening the more historically significant main reading room. New braced walls would be added along the perimeter of both wings and would extend from new foundations to the underside of the roof trusses.

Noe Valley Branch Librarian Roberta Greifer, noted that the children's room is very cramped at this time. She said Children's Librarian Carol Small has to keep a bunch of seasonal books in a small rear office because there is not enough room to shelve them in the reading room. Pamphlets, other reading materials, and two computer terminals that access the library's catalog are also cluttering up the children's reading tables.

Alfaro explained that the bond would provide not only a retrofit, but an expansion of the current structure. The report suggests extending the children's room by removing part of the deck and garden along the sides and back of the building. This expansion would add more room for technicians to process books and tapes. It would also increase the space for Greifer's computer, which now sits in an old coat closet behind the checkout counter.

Building Needs an Elevator

Another improvement under the bond proposal would be to bring the Noe Valley Library into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This would mean adding a ramp to the main entrance of the library, renovating the restrooms, doors, and checkout counters, and installing an elevator from the ground-floor entrance up to the main floor.

"Obviously, our first priority is to provide access to the disabled, but we'd also

like to help all the mothers and fathers with babies who now have to park their strollers outside or carry them up the steps," said Greifer. "An elevator would really help the staff, too. Right now we have to climb the stairs with armloads of returned books and tapes from the drop-off boxes. Since we're closed on Sunday and Monday, on Tuesdays there's always a pile of books in the bin and on the floor, and it can take over an hour to get them up to the checkout counter."

The bond issue would also fund asbestos removal and new electrical wiring at the branch. The librarians and technicians currently use two personal computers (PCs) for administrative tasks, and there are five key-stroke-driven computers and one newly acquired PC for the public (*see sidebar*). At least one computer with games in the children's room would be added once the wiring upgrades is complete. Right now, the library's wiring cannot support an additional computer.

Price Tag for Noe is \$5 Million

The cost for all these improvements at the Noe Valley branch is projected at \$4.9 million. That's less than 4 percent of the total cost of the bond. Most of the other branch renovations fall into the \$4 to \$5 million range as well. But the biggest expenditure in the proposed \$129 million bond issue would be \$14.8 million for construction of a new "systemwide support center," location to be determined. This part of the bond, plus \$5 million earmarked for renovation of Brooks Hall, may prove controversial. Paul Kantus, of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, commented in a recent newsletter, "Should these last two items that are not branch libraries be tacked onto a 'Branch Library Improvement Bond'? Wouldn't the voters be more inclined to okay a bond issue strictly for the very necessary retrofitting of the branches?"

Hildreth estimates that if the measure passes in November — it needs a two-thirds vote — the increase in property taxes on a \$300,000 home would be about \$50 per year.

Library Would Be Closed Two Years

Meanwhile, the San Francisco Library will go ahead and apply for funding under Proposition 14, the state library bond issue passed in March. Funds from Proposition 14 are to be awarded on a competitive basis, and Hildreth and Alfaro believe that Noe Valley's SHR-4 rating will make it a strong candidate.

"We hope to get 65 percent from Proposition 14, and 35 percent from the new improvement bond," said Hildreth. "We know it's a large initial investment [the new proposal], but with the bond funds spread over a 10-year period between all the neighborhood branches that need it, we think it's a good investment."

Assuming the bond measure wins at the polls, the community will not see a completely renovated Noe Valley branch for at least four years. The planning, design, and bidding process could take up to two years, and the actual construction another two. The Noe Valley Library would have to close during construction. Whether the branch would find temporary quarters, shift patrons to the larger Mission Library, or use mobile units remains to be seen.

Hildreth said the measure is now before the Board of Supervisors, but that the library welcomes feedback. You are invited to call Chief of Branches Donna Corbeil at 557-4353 or Public Affairs Director Marcia Schneider at 557-4277. □

Editor's Note: Supervisors Michael Yaki and Amos Brown introduced the library improvement bond measure before the Board of Supervisors on June 6. To get a spot on the Nov. 7 ballot, it must win final board approval by July 28.

Escape Via Netscape at The Jersey Street Branch

By Olivia Boler

If you are not lucky enough (or cursed as I am) to have Internet access in your home or work, you can now stop by the Noe Valley Library and log on to its new PC with Netscape Navigator. Of the six computers open to patrons, it is the only one with a mouse, a printer, and, most importantly, graphics capability. Pages can be printed at a cost of 10 cents per page. (Sorry, it's black and white only.)

I gave the terminal a whirl the other day. The default home page is the San Francisco Public Library's web site, of course. You can check out library events, the catalog for all the branches and the

Main Library, and even your own library account. The site has many links for children, including homework help, things to do in the Bay Area, and brain teasers.

The great thing about the new PC is that you can use its browser — Netscape Navigator — to go beyond the library's web site. I checked my emails on Hotmail, did a quick name search on Yahoo, and almost visited my favorite auctions on eBay (but was able to stop myself).

There is a 15-minute time limit if others are waiting, although Librarian Roberta Greifer says she has not had to use a signup sheet yet. That may change in the future as patrons become aware of this welcome addition to the branch.

The library is located at 451 Jersey Street near Castro. Hours are 10 to 9 on Tuesdays, 1 to 9 on Wednesdays, 10 to 6 on Thursdays and Saturdays, and 1 to 6 on Fridays. Questions? Call 695-5095. □

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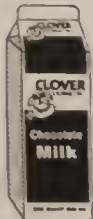
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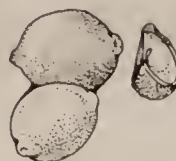
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King and Queen Of Jordan Savor 24th Street Cafe

Continued from Page 1

attendants got out of their limos and went into the restaurant, located at 24th and Sanchez streets. Fakhouri said the limos then went around the corner to look for parking (good luck). Other sources said at least part of the motorcade remained double-parked in front of Savor the entire time the royals were inside dining. (Where was Officer Lois Perillo?)

This was not the first time King Abdullah had visited Savor. Two years ago, when he was a prince, the eldest son of the late King Hussein bin Al Talal came to Savor to receive a formal invitation to a banquet in his honor by the Bay Area Jordanian-American Association, of which Fakhouri was then president.

Abdullah apparently retained a favorable impression of the restaurant because when he returned to San Francisco last month on an official visit to the United States, he specifically asked to go to Savor. "He likes the way we prepare our food," said Fakhouri, who describes his menu as a combination of California and Middle Eastern cuisine.

Educated in the West, the son of an English mother, King Abdullah is known for his casual, informal manner. Both he and Queen Raina arrived at Savor dressed in jeans.

Fakhouri had offered to close Savor to the public so the king and queen could have privacy, but Abdullah insisted that the restaurant remain open. "He prefers to dine with everyone else," said Fakhouri. The restaurant's outdoor patio, where the

king and queen ate, was off limits to other customers, however, for security reasons.

Despite the king's egalitarian preferences and the presence of regular customers, overall security in the restaurant was very tight. Janel Susko, Savor's floor manager and one of two staff members to wait on the king, said at least 12 U.S. Secret Service and other agents hovered inside and outside the bistro. Prior to the king's arrival, agents had used dogs in a bomb sweep of the restaurant and surrounding areas.

Concerned for the well-being of those guarding him, Abdullah made sure the agents received snacks during the visit.

The royal party at Savor consisted of 10 people, including Fakhouri and Fakhouri's two brothers Mazen and Majed. The three own the restaurant jointly. Fakhouri, 43, who was born in Amman, the capital of Jordan, and emigrated to the United States 28 years ago, is very enthusiastic about King Abdullah and his plans for Jordan.

"He's so down-to-earth.... People who work with him love him," said Fakhouri of the king. "He makes sure everyone feels important and comfortable."

Although the king's visit to Savor was officially a social occasion, with a lot of talk — in Arabic with a little English thrown in—about sports and good food, the conversation did turn to politics and the situation in the Middle East. Fakhouri said the king was very forthcoming. "We asked him very tough questions, and he was blunt and honest in answering them."

According to Fakhouri, the king was quite optimistic about peace with Israel and "has tremendous respect for the Israeli leadership." Fakhouri said the king also spoke about the need to control the Hezbollah guerrillas, who have been fighting Israel on the Lebanese border.

As for Jordan, Fakhouri reported that

Abdullah wants very much to make the kingdom more self-sufficient, with a larger industrial and technological base. One of the reasons for the king's June visit to the U.S. was to seek investments and jobs for his country, Fakhouri said.

Abdullah was not originally groomed to be king of Jordan. King Hussein changed the succession in favor of Abdullah a few weeks before his death in February 1999. Prior to that, Abdullah had been a career soldier in the Jordanian Army. The king and his wife have two children. The queen, who is of Palestinian origin, is expecting their third child in a few months.

So what did the king have to eat at Savor? "He had our Masatlan crêpe...the same as he had two years ago," said Fakhouri. The crêpe is filled with avocado, tomatoes, cheddar cheese, sour cream, salsa, and peppers.

The king also has a weakness for jalapeño jelly with corn bread, so Fakhouri indulged him by making up a batch of six jars of the jelly for him to take home. Queen Raina shared an order of pancakes with her aides, Savor staff reported.

Besides the crepe and jelly, Savor went all out to make sure the king's visit was an enjoyable one. "We had lovely linens and utensils, silver trays, and a special menu," said manager Susko. "It was really beautiful—there was so much food."

Still, she was nervous beforehand. "I wanted to make sure everything went smoothly," Susko called the experience of serving the king and queen "wonderful and surreal," adding that she felt honored to have had the opportunity.

Before the royal couple arrived, Susko and the other server, Juliette Delventhal, had been given a quick lesson in royal protocol by Fakhouri. "We were told to refer to them as his and her majesty," Susko said.

Despite the apparent formality, Susko said that the king and queen treated them in a very friendly way. The queen, Susko noted, seemed somewhat reserved at the beginning of the brunch, but became more relaxed as time went on.

Delventhal also found the experience of serving royalty to be a pleasant one. She had trouble, however, with one aspect of the job. "I couldn't bring myself to call them 'your majesty,'" she said. "In this country, kings and queens are in storybooks; they're not people you serve at table. Besides, I treat all my customers like kings and queens."

King Abdullah liked Savor's food so much that he asked Fakhouri if he could send his palace chef from Amman to the restaurant for some tips. Fakhouri not only agreed but offered to come to the palace himself to teach a few culinary classes. The king evidently was serious about the request because Fakhouri says he subsequently received a call from palace officials reminding him to follow through on those pointers for the royal chef.

The king and queen left Savor after about two and a half hours, the king apologizing for the early departure, Fakhouri said.

The king may be gone, but folks in Noe Valley are still agog about the neighborhood's first royal visit. Said Susko: "People were so excited about it—they just want to know where the king sat!" □

The cure for the summertime blues is vacation.

And the Voice is going for it. We'll be out of here for the month of July, and we'll be back to work in August for the September issue. The editorial deadline is Aug. 15.



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Migden Okays Funds for Study Of 30th & Mission BART Station

By Sally Smith

In the year 2005, residents in the vicinity of 30th and Mission streets could have a much faster way to get to work—they could hop aboard a train at their very own BART station.

Last month, Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, earmarked \$400,000 in state budget funds to study a BART station at 30th and Mission streets. Pending passage of the state budget and a dodge from the governor's veto pen, BART will be on its way to studying the idea.

"I'm pleased I could kick-start this study. San Francisco has not seen a new BART station since 1975, and it is abundantly clear that with our city's growth and increasing transportation needs, a project like this makes sense," Migden said.

BART Board Director Tom Radulovich, who brought the project to Migden's attention, was elated. "This station would close the largest gap between San Francisco BART stations. It would also provide access for certain areas in the Mission, Bernal Heights, and Upper Noe Valley that haven't had direct BART access."

A BART staff proposal shows that a new stop at 30th and Mission could be created by tunneling down to existing BART track tubes, opening them up, and building a two-level underground station. The top level would be a mezzanine where passengers would buy tickets, and below would be a station platform for

train boarding. Passengers would access the station from escalators at street level.

A new station would be 37 feet beneath the street and 700 feet long. If the project is approved, Mission Street would be excavated and then covered by steel decking to keep traffic moving while construction goes on below. Surrounding buildings would be minimally affected, say BART engineers.

In the eyes of Radulovich, the project would also offer a chance to reshape the 30th and Mission corridor, now dominated by a gas station, a Walgreen's, and a Safeway. "The station presents an opportunity to develop a neighborhood plan, incorporate housing, neighborhood economic development, and make other traffic, transit, and pedestrian improvements," he said, noting that several bus lines intersect the area, including the 14-Mission, 26-Valencia, and 24-Divisadero.

Radulovich added that the project has won support from a broad range of neighborhood groups and individuals. Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Mark Leno endorsed the idea, as did the Upper Noe Neighbors, Bernal Heights Democratic Club, Noe Valley Democratic Club, and the Mission Merchants Association.

Dave Monks, president of the Noe Valley Democratic Club and a leader in the push for the station, was happy to see the wheels start turning. "This funding is a welcome surprise. Carole Migden really came through. We're on the transportation radar now, and it will be up to surrounding community groups to come together, follow the project, and make sure we turn out at meetings where the big decisions get made. It's great to see creative thinking and community support win the day."

Still, BART has a long way to go before it can stop for passengers at 30th and Mission. "A realistic timeline would be five years," said Radulovich. □



REAL ESTATE

The Growing Housing Crisis and Critical Organizations to Join if you are a homeowner or would like to be a homeowner.

By Shari Malone, Zephyr Real Estate

The Association Bay Area Government (ABAG) released its biannual demographic projections for the nine Bay Area counties. In the next 20 years ABAG projects nearly one million new jobs in the Bay Area. The projected 100,000 new jobs in San Francisco is the largest net increase in any city in the Bay Area, and the housing shortage is expected to get worse. There are two organizations that are incredibly informative and active in their support to increase the opportunity for housing, property ownership, and investment in San Francisco. I highly recommend that you join and support the Small Property Owners of San Francisco and the San Francisco Apartment Association to keep current on property rights. The web site address for the Small Property Owners of San Francisco is <http://www.smallprop.org>. SPOSF has an informative site and newsletter and pushes for fair and informed legislation. They encourage home ownership in San Francisco and in making it a better place to live SPOSF is a fabulous resource for issues

affecting property rights. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month on a current topic.

For membership information, email Tom.ramm@smallprop.org. Call 415-647-2419 or write Small Property Owners of San Francisco, P.O. Box 460656, San Francisco, CA 94146-0656. Membership is between \$45 and \$150 per year.

The San Francisco Apartment Association - <http://www.sfaa.org> - is a must if you own any rental property in San Francisco. Even if you just own one rental property it is critical. This is your resource for staying current on the laws and issues regarding your investment. The SFAA has a full set of current rental forms, tenant screening services, educational services, list of resources, monthly meetings, and a very informative monthly newsletter. Membership starts at \$170 per year. Membership can give you guidance and access to advice that can save you many thousands of dollars in errors. The organization is politically supportive of and informs about private property rights. It provides members with contact names and numbers so they may voice their opinions on issues regarding property legislation.

As a rental property owner, another web site that will provide guidelines and useful information is the San Francisco Rent Board at <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/rentbd>. You'll find a copy of the Residential Rent Stabilization and Arbitration Ordinance, automated fax back service, and information on such items as Costa Hawkins, Ellis Act and rules for Owner-Occupancy Evictions.

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Shari Malone has represented buyers and sellers of real estate for over 25 years. She is in the top 1/2 of 1% of Realtors, nationwide. If you have questions, she invites your call or email. 415-695-0552 x135 or ShariMalone@Zephyr-re.com

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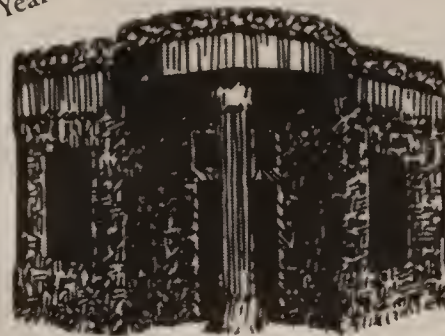
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POLICE BEAT

Surprise! No Robberies in May

By Officer Lois Perillo

During the month of May, Noe Valley reported no robberies and no burglaries. These findings were astonishing to me. In the almost 14 years I've worked the beat, I've not had a month without both of these crimes. As we cops are taught to be suspicious, I ran the stats twice and got the same results. So if any of you reading this and living within the area were targeted, let me know and I'll sadly correct this report in the September column.

How to Dump a Thief

In June, however, the neighborhood had at least one hit. On Friday, June 9, at 11:30 a.m., a 31-year-old man tried to steal a worker's purse from Rabat, the clothing store at the corner of 24th and Noe. The thief was chased by the worker and a 48-year-old man, who tackled and detained the suspect until police arrived.

After a customer alerted the worker that a man had just stolen her purse from behind the counter, she and a male witness chased the suspect south on Noe to Jersey, where other witnesses had seen the suspect toss the contents of the purse onto the sidewalk. They recovered the contents and later gave them to police, who returned them to the worker.

When Sergeant Bob Barnes and Officer Ben Manning reached the scene, they found the witness holding the suspect on the ground. They also found money and a closed pocketknife near the suspect. They took custody of the man and transported him to Mission Station, where he was cited to appear in court on July 12, on a misdemeanor charge of petty theft. Kudos to all the witnesses who lent a hand.

A Nasty Drunk

A 36-year-old woman suspected of reckless driving was arrested outside her car for being drunk in public. She also was charged with assault, for kicking an officer as she was being escorted to jail.

Officers Gene Galleano and Angela Freeman responded to 25th and Church streets on Saturday, May 6, at 10:30 p.m., and spoke to a witness who described the woman's erratic driving, including blowing stop signs, narrowly missing pedestrians, and driving on the wrong side of the street. The witness also saw the woman park and enter Kennedy's Irish Pub.

While the officers checked the parked

car, the woman in question exited the bar and came up to the officers. They immediately noted she had slurred speech, strong alcoholic breath, and red, watery eyes. Since the witness declined to sign a citizen's arrest, the only option available to the officers was to arrest the woman for being drunk in public and unable to care for herself. They took her to county jail, where she was to be held until sober, but before she was escorted into the jail, she kicked Officer Freeman in the knee. This provoked the felony charge of battery of a police officer. The woman was held for two days in jail, then released. No further action was taken.

Fight over a TV Remote

Early Monday morning, May 22, a 46-year-old woman was arrested for assaulting her 56-year-old sister after a disagreement over who had control of the TV remote. The older woman sustained a swollen eye and a lacerated elbow in the incident.

When Officers Steve Mulkeen and Carol Scatena responded to a house on the 4000 block of 25th Street at 7 a.m. to investigate the report of an assault, they found the dispute had actually happened six hours earlier. They took the younger woman into custody and booked her at county jail, where she was held for two days, rebooked on two misdemeanor charges of aggravated assault, and released pending future court dates.

Bad Fare, No Taxi

A 45-year-old cab driver was spit upon by a 20-year-old man who had boarded his taxi while it was engaged and then become angry when he was asked to exit. The incident occurred at 24th and Church streets on Friday, May 26.

Officer Victor Le reported that the suspect expressed remorse, and the taxi driver declined to have him cited. However, the driver had another issue to handle. During the incident, he accidentally hit a parked car, so he exchanged information with the car's owner before he left the scene.

You Can Run, But You Can't Hide

Police arrested a parolee-at-large who fled on foot after he ran a stop sign while driving without a license. The man also was found with narcotics in his possession.

It all started with a traffic stop. When Sergeant Nick Rubino saw a white Buick run the stop sign at Jersey and Castro streets on Tuesday, May 9, at 5 p.m., he stopped the car once it drove the wrong way through Walgreen's parking lot. I rode up on bicycle as he ordered both the 20-year-old female passenger and the 28-year-old driver to get out of their vehicle. Then the sergeant spotted the narcotics, and the chase was on.

The male suspect first ran north on Castro and made a diving leap for the back of a pickup truck as it started up the

hill from 24th Street. He missed and fell flat on his face. By then I was alongside him on my bike, urging him to stop, as I alternately broadcast his description and direction over my radio.

The suspect continued east on 24th Street, zigzagging through traffic. I assured him I could ride farther than he could run. Still, he kept going, turning south on Noe, then east on Jersey, where I finally heard the sounds of a patrol car responding "Code 3" (with lights and sirens). Upon my order, the suspect sat in the middle of the street while I cuffed him. Turned out he was on parole, and the agent had issued a warrant for his arrest. He was returned to San Quentin State Prison.

What Happened to Those Guys?

The 33-year-old man who was arrested in June of last year for battery at Castro and Jersey has successfully completed his court-ordered program, and charges have been dismissed.

The 37-year-old man who was arrested for spousal battery in February in the 1300 block of Douglass pled no contest to a lesser charge and was sentenced to one day in jail, with one day's credit for time served and three years of probation, during which time he must regularly appear in court.

The 40-year-old woman who was arrested for drunk driving in March at Castro and 23rd streets (after several collisions) pled no contest June 1 and was sentenced to 30 days in jail. She was awarded one day's credit for time served, a six-month suspended sentence, and three years on probation.

Charges were dismissed against both men involved in the April battery case at Supercuts, which I reported on in the *Voice* last month. However, the district attorney stipulated that the two men be "released to another agency," which I believe means they will undergo mediation.

In the Heat of the Day

Remember June 13 and 14? Remember the heat wave we were going through, the hottest Bay Area temperatures in over a hundred years? Well, I'm a former New Yorker, but I admit it: I was hot.

At the peak of the scorcher—on June 14, it was 103 degrees in San Francisco—I was pedaling my recently issued Trek 6000 aluminum-framed black police bicycle up the hills to my beat. Yes, I wore my bullet-resistant vest, and no, despite my neighbor Bob's belief to the contrary, I am not allowed to pare down the items I carry on my duty belt to lighten my 15-pound equipment load. I had to carry all my gear, including the sauna that overtook my body between my supposed Coolmax T-shirt (meant to wick away perspiration) and my vest. But nothing got wicked that day. Sorry to be so graphic (it's the nature of being a cop), but my uniform got so weighed down by sweat, it stuck to me like a huge soggy band-aid. Ugh. Happily, we have showers at the station, and I showered through mealtime. Who could eat on a day like that? Well, I did have a chocolate float at Joe's, which should have been a fruit smoothie, and then later, after work, I had some sushi. While we're on the subject of food, in answer to your question: No, I don't eat donuts.

All this is to say: stay cool this summer and have a good one. This column will have to last you through August. (The next issue of the *Voice* will be in September.) Let's continue to watch out for one another, and I'll see you on patrol. □

San Francisco Police Officer Lois Perillo covers her Noe Valley beat—from Valencia to Grand View and 21st to Cesar Chavez—on foot and on bicycle. If you would like to discuss a crime or safety problem, call her at 558-5404, the community policing line at Mission Station.

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Back to the Future: Robin Sutherland (left) signs copies of his CD after performing Johann Sebastian Bach's *Goldberg Variations* May 21 at the Noe Valley Ministry. The concert kicked off Noe Valley Chamber Music's Piano Campaign, which has already raised \$40,000 for a new piano for the classical concert series. For more information about the fall season starting Oct. 29, or to contribute to the piano fund, call series coordinator Karen Heather at 415-333-9444.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

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Residents Tell Supervisors: 'Monsters' Are Destroying Neighborhoods

By Rae Leaper

The neighborhoods are being overrun by "monsters"—large buildings that crowd onto small lots and dwarf the houses next door. And if the city doesn't put a halt to the invasion, we can say goodbye to our smaller, more affordable homes.

That was the message delivered by dozens of Noe and Eureka Valley residents who attended an emotional June 6 hearing before the Board of Supervisors' housing committee.

The "monster home forum" was called by Supervisor Mark Leno, who had expressed his own concerns about the rise in oversize developments in San Francisco. "People are at war with one another, and it's created some terrible scars," he said. "We must ensure that the neighborhood interests are protected."

Leno and Supervisors Sue Bierman and Alicia Becerra listened for two hours as more than 30 people—including representatives from the Collingwood Hill Neighborhood Association, Upper Noe Neighbors, and the Sanchez Hill Neighborhood Association—came to the microphone to voice their complaints.

Most aimed their venom at City Planning, for its alleged bias toward builders.

Paul Turchetto of Sanchez Street declared, "This city and its neighborhoods are in crisis. Because of the housing shortage, the city's needs have been married to the developers' wants, and it is becoming a marriage from hell."

The hot issue of affordable housing was also addressed by Steve Bartoletti of Beaver Street, who pointed out that every time the Planning Department permits the demolition of an existing house, the price of the replacement jumps 50 to 100 percent. "Demolitions are accelerating this crazy market," he said.

Many speakers decried the Planning Department's failure to adhere to the Residential Design Guidelines, put in place by the 1986 passage of Proposition M. That proposition states that "the existing housing and neighborhood character [shall] be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods."

Bill Barrett of 21st Street asked the supervisors to strengthen the guidelines to make it impossible for the Planning Department "to ignore the will of the people."

Steve Nicholson of Sanchez Street outlined several changes to the planning code that "would allow the addition of housing and orderly development." He suggested that the city add residential structures to the planning code's maximum "floor area ratios" (currently, the FARs apply only to commercial buildings), require neighborhood involvement before determining whether a project conforms with the planning code, and establish a reasonable definition of demolition. He also called on the supervisors to "send a clear message that the spirit of Prop. M will be enforced."

Several speakers warned that unless City Hall offered relief, they would take action at the ballot box. Jeannene Przyblyski of the Collingwood Hill Neighborhood Association said, "We represent hundreds, even thousands of San Franciscans, who have been politically activated and radicalized by the negative experience of out-of-control development in our neighborhoods. We ask you to join us to stop this unplanned and piecemeal growth."

Planning Director Gerald Green had been invited to speak, but left before the hearing started. Calls to his department, requested by an obviously upset Supervisor Bierman, failed to entice a representative to attend. "I don't know if this has ever happened before—where the supervisors have a hearing about a subject, and the department involved doesn't even show up," she said.

Developers were also scarce. Only two people spoke in favor of building projects that were substantially larger than the neighborhood average. They said their buildings were not "monsters" since they were not out of scale with the size of the lot. Supervisor Bierman encouraged them to "work with the neighbors to come to a compromise."

At the end the hearing, Supervisor Leno told the audience that he felt there was a need for a citywide plan. He also promised to look into codifying the guidelines embodied in Prop. M. □

In late June, Supervisor Mark Leno announced that he was authoring legislation that would require residential builders to abide by the average "floor area ratio" (a standard formula) on their block. "We can prevent this entire battlefield over monsters by making it clear that, for residential as well as commercial developments, the basic floor area ratio will determine the maximum allowance for buildings on the street."

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Two Victorians Severely Damaged In 23rd Street Fire

By Addie Lanier

Fire broke out in the basement of a three-unit Victorian building at 4175-77 23rd Street (near Diamond) on Thursday, May 25, at about 1:45 in the afternoon. The two-alarm blaze caused extensive damage to the back of the building and considerable smoke and water damage to neighbor Patti Wood's home. The owners of the building, who live in St. Helena, were out of town at the time of the incident.

Twenty-four units — engines, trucks, and emergency vehicles — responded to the blaze. (See accompanying story.) The cause is still under investigation. Fortunately, no one was injured, but all the tenants have been forced to move.

Two weeks after the fire, renter Liane Angus, who lived in the top flat of the Victorian with her husband Peter Haffner and son Houston, was still coping with the loss of her home. She expressed her

deep gratitude toward her neighbors.

"There are so many people to thank," Angus said. "They gave us food, clothes, money, a place to stay, and garages to store our belongings. A woman who walks her dog on our block, who didn't even know us, helped us and gave my son a Batman toy. The sense of community and support from our neighbors completely surprised and overwhelmed us."

However, none of the tenants had renter's insurance, and four households continue to be affected by this fire. The damage is major, and it is unclear whether the building will be rebuilt or demolished. All the residents have found temporary housing (in sublets or with friends), but the Angus-Haffner household is seeking a new apartment, and the Wood household will have to relocate while their home is repaired.

Anyone who has space to rent is invited to leave a message for Liane Angus at 285-9095. Patti Wood, a longtime Noe Valley resident and merchant, is asking those who have photographs of the fire to drop them off at the Wooden Heel shoe repair shop on 24th Street near Castro, or email her at PMEMOLi@aol.com. □



Firefighters (from left) Jeffrey Babb, Christine Williams, and Reid Sheridan, of Engine Company 6, were among the dozens of men and women who helped douse a smoky fire at 4175-77 23rd Street on May 25. Four households were displaced by the blaze. Photos by Addie Lanier

The Fire on 23rd Street

By Henry Weverka with Zach Goldstein

The first time I saw the fire was when I was walking home from school with my dad. We had turned the corner of Eureka and 23rd streets. Gray smoke was rising into the air, and the wind was really blowing. My dad erupted, "Holy sh--!" He ran into Bernstein Realty to call the Fire Station. I didn't know what to do. Finally, my father came back. He said that Bernstein Realty had already called the Fire Department.

As we ran down 23rd Street toward Diamond, we heard sirens. People were out on the street, some crying, and some very scared. My dad and I went to our neighbor's, the Goldsteins', house and stood on their front steps to get a better look at the action. As the fire trucks kept coming (Engines 6, 7, 10, 11, and 12, and Trucks 7 and 11), my friend Zach Goldstein showed up with his mom, Maribeth. She was very scared about her friend Patti Wood. She thought it was Wood's house that was on fire, but it was Patti's next-door neighbor.

We went up to the top of the stairs to get a better look and saw flames inside the building and small flames on the roof. From the basement, dark gray smoke rose into the air. It really stunk.

Firemen (and women) began to gear up — putting their oxygen tanks over their backs, holding long spear-like tools, chain saws, and axes. Some had clear masks to protect their faces and eyes. They began breaking the front windows. One of them chopped the front door down as they walked straight into billowing black smoke with their hoses.

Two ladders were put up — one on Patti's house and one on the house that was on fire. Firefighters went up the ladders with hoses, and they used chain saws and axes to break into the roof. From where we were watching, we could see them swinging their axes into the roof. Suddenly, huge flames rose from the roof. They began shooting the water inside the house from their spots on the roof. Minutes after they were on the roof, one of the firefighters slipped and fell to the neighbor's roof. Flames went over his head. Two or three minutes later, we saw him again down on the street, breathing hard, getting oxygen from a tank.

Zach and I thought it was really scary to see the firefighters walking into the burning house. The firefighters were very brave and should be applauded for their bravery. □

Editor's Note: The Voice thanks Henry Weverka and Zach Goldstein, both 11, for sending in their eyewitness report of a fire at 4175-77 23rd Street the afternoon of May 25. Luckily, no one — including firefighters — was seriously hurt. However, two buildings suffered major damage, forcing the residents to find alternative lodgings.



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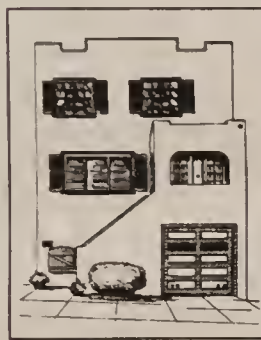
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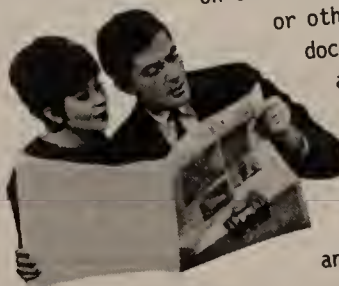
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Living with the Maya, Giving Back to the World

A Community Health Care Worker Reflects on Her Life's Journey From Glasgow to Antigua by Way of Noe Valley

By John Bird

You need to spend a certain amount of time with Margaret Bean, and listen carefully, to begin to understand the scope and breadth of her life experiences, and the path she has chosen. In her soft Scottish brogue, she will share her memory of being a 6-year-old girl crouched next to her mother in an air-raid shelter her father had dug in their back yard on the outskirts of Glasgow, Scotland. She'll talk about the German bombers flying overhead and the earth shaking when a bomb exploded just across the road.

A few minutes later, Bean, 66, will tell you about the thunderstorm she experienced three nights ago at home in Antigua, Guatemala. When the power went out, she finished writing a letter by candlelight, hunched over her laptop, grateful to have a computer that could run on a battery.

Bean arrived in the United States in 1960 with a nurse-midwife certificate, \$36 in her pocket, and a yearning to pursue a career in community health care. In New York City, she worked as a registered nurse while studying for a degree at N.Y.U. For seven years she was a senior editor at the *American Journal of Nursing*, and even did a short stint as a medical staffer on a Caribbean cruise ship—a way for her to see another corner of the world.

Her first year in San Francisco, 1977, she worked for San Francisco General Hospital's nascent nurse-midwife service, one of the first birthing centers in the nation. Later, she helped open a similar birthing facility at Highland Hospital in Oakland. Bean also wrote a proposal, which received state funding, to open a hospital-based midwife service for four satellite birthing clinics managed by Alameda County. "I was a crusader," she writes in her memoirs. "I had a vision. I would help bring competent, compassionate, beneficial change, we would slash the high neonatal mortality rates, and we would do it now."

In hindsight, she realizes she was woefully unprepared for the rough-and-tumble climate of big-city health care politics. "There was extraordinary social unrest and political posturing [going on] at that time," Bean got burned out — "in fact, burned to a crisp."

It took her a long time to recover from that experience, to understand that she had served as a catalyst for the state and county to work together to launch a new health service, and ultimately to provide care to underserved neighborhoods.

In the early 1980s, she settled in Noe Valley—in an apartment on 25th Street near Grand View—and joined the Noe Valley Ministry, the Presbyterian Church on Sanchez Street. Bean gained much from being a part of that community. "I've always enjoyed hosting small events that bring people together to put the fun back in fundraising—a sort of 'Share the Spirit' program," she says.

For one such activity, Bean arranged to use Bethany Methodist's kitchen, "with its wonderful huge double ovens," to teach a shortbread baking class. Bean gave everyone ingredients to bake 2½ pounds of Scottish shortbread. Each participant got to take home a one-pound loaf; the rest was sold at a bake sale on 24th Street. The project netted \$500 for the Ministry's community benevolence

fund, and all the bakers got to hear Bean's stories of growing up Scottish.

Bean also served as the Ministry's representative on the Interfaith Sanctuary Committee, a group offering shelter for refugees fleeing Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. A two-week Spanish class at a language school in the Yucatan was her introduction to the history and culture of the ancient Maya.

Her curiosity piqued, in 1988 Bean took a river trip into Guatemala, traveling from Palenque to Tikal. The country was being torn by civil war, and the river was an escape route for guerrillas and refugees alike.

"I was so furious when all my luggage was stolen, including 10 rolls of exposed film," Bean fumes. She vowed to return to Guatemala to take more pictures.

That opportunity came three summers ago, when she moved to Guatemala. Arriving in Quetzaltenango, initially she lived in the homes of two different families, and later worked at Colegio Evangelico la Patria, a private academy. With the title of health care consultant, she did a needs analysis to help the school administrators develop short- and long-term goals. She also operated a first-aid station



Margaret Bean's health care career has spanned five decades on three continents. She'll give a talk about her experiences in Guatemala at the Noe Valley Ministry on July 26. Photo by Katya de Luiso

for students and staff.

Her early experiences were both difficult and heartwarming. "I saw how hard the Guatemalan people—particularly the women—worked, and for a mere pittance," Bean writes. "I felt a great respect for the people I had met and lived among—and I wanted to give something back."

She set up a scholarship fund for a 10-year-old girl named Lisbeth. Lisbeth was especially bright and gifted, she thought, and would benefit from getting an education at a private school. "And it eases the burden a bit on her mum," adds Bean.

Bean now lives in Antigua, where she rents a cottage just outside of town. Recent additions to her household this past year have included a sheep dog, Iona, and a kitten, Squitten. From her front room she can see three volcanoes. One, named Fuego, puffs frequently.

These days, Bean continues to consult to local volunteer groups. She is occasionally called to disaster relief sites for help with translating. She has developed a network of friends, both natives and "gringos" from England, Australia, and the U.S. And she has discovered a special kinship with the local Quakers group, noting that their sense of social justice and volunteerism parallel her own. She is trying to learn to be more computer-savvy, and likes to walk her dog in the nearby coffee plantations.

But her life in Guatemala is still filled with adventure.

"Yesterday was a very Guatemalan day," Bean wrote recently. She and a

Margaret Bean on Life in Guatemala

Former Noe Valleyan Margaret Bean returns to San Francisco for a visit this summer and will give a series of talks and slide presentations on her experiences volunteering in Guatemala. Admission is by sliding-scale donation (\$5 to \$10). All proceeds will go toward the Noe Valley Ministry's Guatemalan Scholarship Fund. For information, phone the church at 415-282-2317.

Margaret Bean is currently scheduled to speak:

- Wednesday, July 26, 7:30 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. (at 23rd)
- Friday, Aug. 11, 7:30 p.m., St. John's United Church of Christ, 501 Laguna Honda Blvd. (at Woodside)

friend set out to visit a women's cooperative to attend its first-year anniversary celebration. First they had a flat tire, so they caught a bus, which had to detour around a *desrumba*, a landslide on the mountain road. Nobody they asked seemed to know quite where the cooperative was located. Finally, they found themselves walking up a narrow, twisting cobblestone lane, "and suddenly a whole horde of joyful, *traje*-clad [traditionally dressed] women and children were pouring out to greet us," Bean, once again, was home with the Maya. □

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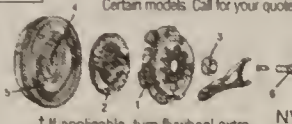
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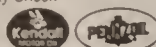
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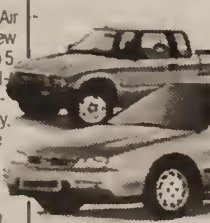
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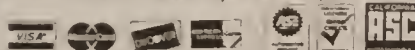
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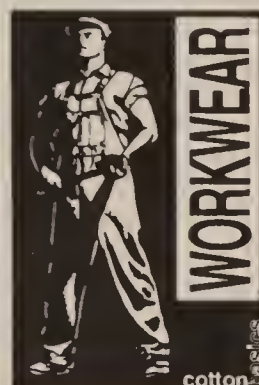
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Gone But Not Forgotten

The Secret Recyclers

By Norma Paulsen

Growing up in Noe Valley in the mid-1920s was a time of simple pleasures and great wonder at the many events going on around me. We moved from Jersey Street to Alvarado Street because of the latter's close proximity to Alvarado School, where I was soon to start kindergarten.

Outside our new flat, my mother cultivated a most beautiful and lush garden admired by many of our neighbors. I'd like to think that only she and I knew the secret of the garden's botanical miracle, but I wonder if, indeed, the neighbors were on to it...

During the days of the Great Depression, a rag man would come through the neighborhood, driving his horse and cart, shouting, "Rags! Bottles! Sacks!" As soon as we heard his plaintive cry, my mother would send me off with my

arms full of old newspapers and rags. She'd follow behind me with our box of used glass bottles (no wax cartons then). We would exchange our loot with the rag man for the vast sum of 15 or 20 cents. Then we'd head home.

In that era, there were no laws about cleaning up after your animals, and certainly no pooper-scoopers. So, as soon as dusk appeared, Mother would hurriedly leave the house with shovel in hand and me following, carrying an empty box. She would then quickly shovel the horse droppings into the box, and we would scurry back to our house.

After a few days of allowing the mess to dry, Mother would work the manure into our soil. Then we'd wait for the results—dahlias, roses, and other colorful flowers and lush foliage—to bloom and thrive. Despite the somewhat base subject matter, this is a beautiful memory for me, and I prefer to think of our garden as one of the first organic gardens in Noe Valley.

Noe Valley native Norma Paulsen, 77, now lives in San Bruno, where she has continued to indulge her interest in gardening. Upon her 1985 retirement from the San Bruno Recreation and Parks Department, she received as a going-away present a bag of horse manure from the city stables. And she was quite pleased with the gift! □

Gone But Not Forgotten

The Noe Valley Voice would like to publish your recollections of people, places, and things from Noe Valley's past. Mail your manuscript, which should be under 1,000 words, to Gone But Not Forgotten, Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send an email version (not an attachment, please) to jaxvoice@aol.com. Thank you.

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July / August



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JUNE 30 & JULY 1: Community Music Center registers new students of all ages and skill levels for summer MUSIC CLASSES. By appointment only; call 647-6015.

JULY 1: Three teachers lead CREATIVE WRITING exercises in "Fireworks from Within." 10 am–1 pm. The Writing Salon; call 642-9793 to register, or email www.writingsalons.com.

JULY 1: "ArtFusion," an exhibit/sale of handcrafted works for body and home, features the work of 24 Bay Area jewelers and ARTISTS. 11 am–6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 822-5580.

JULY 1: BUTTERFLY COUNT 2000 at the Randall Museum takes a tally of the butterfly population around the museum. Ages 5 and up; children with an adult. 2–4 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

JULY 1: MYSTERY writer Kent Braithwaite introduces his first novel, *The Wonderland Murders*. 3–4 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

JULY 1 & 2: No Exile Productions performs a solo theater piece examining the legacy of fascism and the Holocaust, *Don't Look, Don't Ask*. 7:30 pm; 2 pm matinee July 2. Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. 510-528-7764.

JULY 1, 2 & 4: The San Francisco MIME TROUPE performs *Eating It*, a satirical examination of market-driven genetic engineering. 2 pm. Dolores Park. 285-1717.

JULY 1–AUG. 5: SUMMER READING CLUB 2000 encourages kids up to age 13 to read books and thereby earn prizes. Drop by the Noe Valley Library for info. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JULY 2: San Francisco Opera Center's Merola Opera Program performs Verdi's *RIGOLETTO* in Stern Grove. 2 pm, with a pre-performance talk in the Grove's Trocadero Clubhouse. 252-6252.



The band Swing Fever, with vocalist Jackie Ryan, promises to get your fingers snapping and your toes tapping at the Noe Valley Ministry Aug. 11. Photo by Sandra Fisk.

JULY 2 & 16: "High and Dry: Desert Plains" is the theme of July's story time and GARDEN WALK for children 4 to 8 and their parents. 10:30 am. Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park, 661-1316.

JULY 3–15: Summerfun THEATER CAMP for kids age 5 to 13 features drama, dance, art, scriptwriting, and a performance created by the participants. Mon.–Fri., 9 am–3:30, with two Sunday performances (no class July 4). The Growing Stage at the Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750, ext. 2.

JULY 3–AUG. 5: Neighborhood artist Susan Sternau is among the exhibitors in a "Celebrating the EUCALYPTUS" art show. Mon.–Fri., 11 am–4 pm. Commonwealth Alternative Medical Center, 451 Mesa Road, Bolinas. 868-0970.

JULY 3–AUG. 31: Chris Sequiera leads TAI CHI classes Mon. and Tues., 6 to 7:30 pm at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; and Wed. and Fri., 10:15 am to noon, in Douglass Park, Douglass & 27th. 773-8185.

JULY 5: FREE DAY at the Zoo!

JULY 5: "HYPERTENSION Is No Hype," a brown-bag lecture by William W. Parmley, M.D., examines causes and treatment of high blood pressure. 12:10–1 pm. UCSF, 513 Parnassus Ave., Health Sciences West Building, Room 300. 476-4394.

JULY 5–AUG. 9: Learn the basics of TAROT reading. Wed., 7 to 9 pm. Array of Light, 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

JULY 5, 12, 19 & 26; AUG. 2, 9, 16 & 30: The Noe Valley Library holds LAPSITS for infants, toddlers, and their parents. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JULY 6: Bart and Judy Lewis teach BALLROOM dance classes for couples. One hour, on six Thursdays. Commodore Sloat School, Ocean Ave. & Junipero Serra. Reservations, call 661-2746.

JULY 7–8: A pajama party begins at 9:30 pm at Cover to Cover Booksellers, to await the new HARRY POTTER book that goes on sale at the stroke of midnight (until 1 am). Stories, snacks to be provided. 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

JULY 7, 14 & 28: In IRON SCIENCE TEACHER, educators compete to conduct a classroom science activity within a 10-minute time limit, in front of a live audience. Noon–1 pm. Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon St. 563-7337

JULY 8: Walt Anthony, CONJURER, presents a program of magic based on the Harry Potter books, for ages 6 and up. 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JULY 9: The SILENT FILM Festival at the Castro Theater includes Fay Wray in person at the 4 pm screening of her 1928 Erich von Stroheim romance *The Wedding March*. 429 Castro St. Call 777-4908 for full program.

JULY 9: A BREEMA bodywork workshop offers relief from stress and tension, and supports balance and vitality. 2:30–5:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 255-7947.

JULY 9: The Redwood STRING QUARTET performs music by Haydn, Prokofiev, and Mozart. 3 pm. Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.



Jennifer Smith (left) and Makani da Silva of Na Lei Hulu I Ka Wekuu will perform a dance called "Pua" at California Contemporary Dancers' 10th anniversary celebration Aug. 11–20. Photo by Marty Sohl.

JULY 10, 17, 24 & 31: "Mastering MEDITATION" is a free four-week series taught by Mayuri Mandel and sponsored by the Sri Chinmoy Center. 7 pm. Bethany United Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St. 664-1327.

JULY 11: Martin Hickie and Geri Digiorio read POETRY at 7 pm; open mike follows. Keane's 3300 Club, 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

JULY 11: In a solo CELLO performance, Randolph Fromme performs the music of Bach and Kodaly. 7:30 pm. Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

JULY 11, 18 & 25; AUG. 1, 8, 15 & 29: Preschool STORY TIME, a read-aloud program for children 3 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JULY 12: MAKE*A*CIRCUS performs "Zucchini's Unplugged" in Glen Park. 70 Elk St. Call 337-4705 for time and info.

JULY 12: MUNI's general manager, Michael Burns, will speak at the monthly meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, 821-4087.

JULY 13: The HOLY GROUNDS COFFEEHOUSE begins its first season with Fret Not, an East Bay bluegrass gospel group. 1 pm. Bethany Church, 201 Clipper St. 648-8393.

JULY 13: Terry Tenzing's BARNYARD PETS offers a farm animal petting zoo at the Bernal Heights Library. 4 pm. 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160.



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Calendar



JULY 13: Radical Women screens two film documentaries about all-women JAZZ BANDS in the 1940s, *International Sweethearts of Rhythm*, and *Tina & Ruby: Hell Drivin' Women*. 7 pm. 1908 Mission St. 864-1278.

JULY 13-15: Tina Croll and James Cunningham's "The Horse's Mouth Greet the New Millennium" features DANCE performances by 20 artists. 8 pm. ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. 979-4500.

JULY 14: REBECCA RIOTS sings her politically charged songs at the Noe Valley Music Series. Singer/songwriter Laura Chandler opens the show at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

JULY 15: A TOOL SHARPENING workshop, with an emphasis on the chisels, planes, and scrapers used by wood-working artists, runs from 1 to 3 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. Preregistration required at 554-9600.

JULY 15: Meet the BAT LADY and her live bats at the Glen Park Library. 2 pm. 653 Chenery St. 337-4340.

JULY 15 & 16; AUG. 19 & 20: Array of Light offers a PSYCHIC HEALING FAIR from 10 am to 5 pm. 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

JULY 16: Mary Pacios investigates the BLACK DAHLIA murder case in *Childhood Shadows*. 3-4 pm. S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

JULY 18: "Could You Be Touched by an Angel?" is the discussion question at Array of Light. 7-9 pm. 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

JULY 20-27: The 20th annual JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL opens at the Castro Theater and other Bay Area venues. Call 925-866-9559 for info.

JULY 21, 22 & 28-30: City Summer Opera at City College performs *KISMET*, a "musical *Arabian Nights*." Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., July 30, 2 pm. Diego Rivera Theater, 50 Phelan Ave. 239-3100

JULY 21 & 23: The INA CHALIS OPERA Ensemble performs Pietro Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* on July 21, 7:30 pm, at Community Music Center, 544 Capp St.; and July 23, 4:30 pm, at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive. 647-6015.

JULY 22: MARCIA MULLER and Bill Pronzini sign their mysteries, *Lislen to the Silence* and *Crazybone*, respectively 2-3 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

JULY 22 & 23; AUG. 12 & 13: Create a MOSAIC stepping stone for your garden at a weekend workshop led by a Potrero Hill artist. Sat., 10 am-5 pm, and Sun., noon-3 pm. Joni, 648-6740.

JULY 24: Female vocal and percussion ensemble MUTAMA perform a diverse program of music. 8 pm. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St. 751-0439.

JULY 24 & AUG. 14: UNBLOCK CREATIVITY at a hands-on workshop at Array of Light. 7-9:30 pm. 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

JULY 25: An OPEN MIKE POETRY evening at Keane's 3300 Club begins at 7 pm and includes free food. 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

JULY 26: The Penny Royal PUPPET THEATER performs *The Lemon Princess*, an Arabian folk tale featuring a talking camel. 6:45 pm. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4340.

JULY 26: MARGARET BEAN gives a talk and slide show, "Living with the Maya, Giving Back to the World," about living with the indigenous people of Guatemala. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317



Guitarist Peppino D'Agostino returns to the Noe Valley Music Series on Aug. 26, after a yearlong European tour.

JULY 27: This month's UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS meeting will begin at 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 285-0473.

JULY 29: RHYTHM SALAD presents "Beal Bonanza," a chance for children 4 and up to explore rhythm and make music. 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

AUG. 2: "Yoga Practices for ASTHMATICS" offers techniques to increase breathing capacity, and natural healing approaches. 6-9 pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

AUG. 2-6: The San Francisco BUTOH FESTIVAL features a variety of dance performances. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. Call 621-7797 for a schedule.

AUG. 3-24: Taught by a Kabbalistic scholar, "KABABALA" introduces ancient mysteries for benefits in everyday life. 7-9 pm. Array of Light, 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

AUG. 5: A ROSE QUARTZ workshop explores the unique energy of the stone. 7 to 9 pm. Array of Light, 4291 24th St. 642-9249.

AUG. 6: Vijay Stallings teaches a class in AYURVEDIC COOKING, considering the basic body types and foods appropriate for each. 11 am-2 pm. Integral Yoga, 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

AUG. 8: J.R. Brady, Jon Greene, and Kit Kennedy read POETRY at 7 pm, followed by an open mike. Keane's 3300 Club, 3300 Mission St. 826-6886.

AUG. 10-13: The Young People's TEEN MUSICAL THEATER performs "2000 on Broadway," a musical overview of shows currently playing Thurs-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. Preregistration required, at 554-9600.

AUG. 11: Margaret Bean shares reflections on life in Guatemala. 7:30 pm. Sanctuary of St. John's Church, 501 Laguna Honda Blvd. 282-2317.

AUG. 11: SWING FEVER performs music of the '30s and '40s, featuring vocalist Jackie Ryan. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 824-9557.

Try to Remember September

We're playing hooky for the month of August, so the next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the September issue, gracing your presence on Friday, Sept. 1. Please send in your fall calendar items by **Aug. 15**. Noe Valley events take priority, but we'll do our best to fit yours in. You can write us at 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email zabarska@aol.com.

For last-minute calendar changes, call Karol at 285-6347.

AUG. 11-20: California Contemporary DANCERS invites special guests to help celebrate its 10th anniversary. Fri.-Sun., 8 pm. Sun., 2 pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

AUG. 13-20: The Cine/Club offers teenagers a free weeklong SHAKE-SPEARE FILM Festival. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. For titles call Ronald Chase at 864-2026.

AUG. 18: The Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry hosts a musical performance by RICHARD BUCKNER and the Crooked Jades at 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

AUG. 25: Guitarist Duck Baker, violinist Carla Kihlstedt, and clarinetist Ben Goldberg perform in CONCERT. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

AUG. 26: Guitarist PEPPINO D'AGOSTINO performs with friends at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

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(Photo Circa 1910)

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SHORT TAKES

Music on Holy Grounds

Holy Grounds Coffeehouse, a live performance venue "committed to the life and ministry of the church through music and social gathering," will be opening this summer in the sanctuary of Bethany United Methodist Church. The new venue will host at least one performance a month from August through December, and will showcase a variety of musical entertainment.

An East Bay bluegrass gospel group called Fret Not will kick off the season on Sunday, Aug. 13, at 1 p.m. The coffeehouse is asking a \$10 donation at the door, or patrons can buy a season pass for \$60. Coffee and tea will be available as well.

Bethany is located at 1268 Sanchez Street at the corner of Clipper. For a schedule of Holy Grounds performances, stop by the church or call 647-8393.

Muni Chief Stops Here

Attention, Muni riders! Here's your chance to lobby for more bus routes. Michael Burns, Muni's new general manager, will address the Noe Valley Democratic Club on Wednesday, July 12, at 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street.

Prior to his appointment as head of Muni, Burns was the chief operations officer of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), a five-county, multimodal (buses, trolleys, light rail, subway, and commuter rail) system serving the Philadelphia area.

Burns will talk about his experiences in Philadelphia and compare them with the challenges he faces at our own favorite transit system, Muni. In addition, he'll outline Muni's goals and objectives for the next five years, including improved service, higher safety standards, and better training for drivers. Then he'll take your questions and comments.

All are welcome to attend. For more information, call Dave Monks at 821-4087.

Artists Defend Eucalyptus

Three Noe Valley artists are joining 12 others in an art show to raise awareness of threatened eucalyptus trees in Marin County. Works by Susan Sternau, a watercolorist featured in the September '98 *Voice*, photographer Jim Patton, and painter Theophilus Brown will be part of "Celebrating the Eucalyptus," running now through Aug. 5 at Commonweal, an alternative medical center near Bolinas.

The show is the artists' response to the controversy surrounding 600 acres of eucalyptus groves in the Golden Gate Recreation Area. The National Park Service is planning to remove the trees because they are considered nonnative vegetation and a fire hazard. The water district in Boli-

nas appointed a panel of residents to create a plan for managing the eucalyptus trees on its land, but the panel has split between those who argue the trees are a safety hazard from falling limbs and fire, and those who say the trees serve as a wind block and provide habitat for migrating Monarch butterflies. Some of the trees are over 100 years old.

Photographs, paintings, and collages featuring eucalyptus will be displayed and available for sale Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the gallery space at Commonweal, located at 451 Mesa Road in Bolinas. For more information, call the gallery at 868-0970. Or email Susan Sternau at SternauArt@aol.com.

Citizens' Police Academy

Want to know what it's like to be a police officer? The San Francisco Police Department is launching a program called the Citizens' Academy to teach interested citizens the ins and outs of policing. The SFPD hopes the classes will increase community awareness and build better working relationships between local residents and police.

Topics include patrol procedures, investigations, juvenile and domestic violence, firearms, and there's even a police car ride-along session. Most of the 15 sessions are held at the San Francisco Police Academy, located at 350 Amber Drive (in Diamond Heights), on Monday nights, 7 to 10 p.m., from July 10 to Oct. 30.

To qualify, you must be at least 15 years old (15- to 18-year-olds need parental permission), live or work in San Francisco, be in school or have a high school diploma or G.E.D., and be free of any felony convictions (as well as free of misdemeanor convictions for at least one year). If you'd like an application or more information, call Officer Rose Melendez at 695-6913 or 695-6900.

Host a French Teenager


Loisirs Culturels a L'Étranger (LEC), a nonprofit organization, is looking for host families to provide room and board for English-speaking French exchange students, ages 14 to 18, for one month, in August. The students are interested in learning about the United States in a family environment, and are carefully screened by LEC. If you host a student, you can create a lasting impression of American home life and no doubt learn a thing or two yourself.

Each student pays for his or her own activities and is fully insured by LEC, and there will be a French chaperone staying in the area. To get more information, call coordinator Rayna Hickman at 701-9107.

New Veterans Handbook

If you're a veteran, or you have a family member who is a veteran, you might want to check out a new handbook put out by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents* gives an update on the rates for certain federal payments, outlines veterans' programs and benefits, and lists the 800 numbers you need to get those benefits, plus all the locations of VA facilities. Everything from health care programs to home loans to burial in a national cemetery is covered. There's also information about potential environmental exposures during the Gulf War or in Vietnam.

The entire text of the handbook — in English and in Spanish — is available free on VA's web site at www.va.gov/opalfeature. But if you prefer a hard copy, call the U.S. Government Printing Office at 202-512-1800 to order one for \$5 by credit card. You can also request one by mail at the Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954 (reference stock #051-000-00220-2).



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IN THE BIG WORLD

Yosemite Groove

By Sven Eberlein

Home! I thought to myself, stepping out of the band van into a moonlit silhouette of Mother Nature's finest.

Standing on a sloped meadow sprinkled with wildflowers and pine cones, the bottoms of my bare feet were sending tactile waves of sensuous moss to the feelgood nerve endings in my brain. Below, only a stone's throw away, the Merced River was engaged in a show of force unparalleled by anything I had seen or heard before. Winter's grip had given in to the sun's rebirth, causing staunch snowcaps to turn into millions of cubic feet of melting water ferociously draining into a system of thirsty streams and tributaries.

Five weeks earlier, after a 45-minute opening set for a death metal band in a smoky San Francisco dive, our mandolin player, Baba Ndjhoni, had tempted us with the offer to play on his friend's back porch in El Portal, a small community of park employees on the periphery of Yosemite National Park.

"Paul and I talked on the phone today," Baba had burst out with soulful enthusiasm, "and all I could hear were the torrents of the river!"

At that moment, the guitarist of the death metal band stepped on his distortion overdrive pedal, inciting all eight of us to chant in unison: "When are we leaving?!"

Now the roar of the river was oozing into every pore of my body, shedding layers of smog, schedules, and protection mechanisms that urban musicians acquire to keep their sanity in the con-

crete jungle. Rock formations towering around me appeared to be whispering tales of origin that preceded time, reducing pyramids and skyscrapers to nugatory specks on granite's clock. Thinking that the absence of time would inevitably lead to a world of patience, I lowered myself into Paul's 50-foot rope swing and gradually ascended to a weightless plateau overlooking Yosemite Valley.

Our band's name is Chemistry Set. It's a musical experiment that combines creativity, family, and the longing for connection with a higher source. I knew that taking our groovy mix of jazz, rock, and African rumba high up into the most pure and untouched corners of the Sierra Nevada was going to be like traveling to the roots of our music. What I didn't know was how enriching this encounter would turn out to be.

"You guys wanna go for a swim in a water hole?" I heard Paul's voice echoing through the log cabin as we were unloading our arsenal of amplifiers, tambouras, and chimes onto the porch.

Moments later, we found ourselves hiking among blossoming shrubs of



Yosemite, where rock is king.

Photo courtesy of Sven Eberlein

Baba was the first one to strip down to his bare essentials, and to the sounds of Tarzan-like howls, we watched him dive off a protruding cliff and splash in the ice-cold water like a young otter. The rest of us followed without much hesitation, and before long the idyllic valley had turned into a cartoonish scene of eight gurgling and frolicking city slickers in the nude.

wild raspberry, up a trail that eventually led us down a steep ravine into an oasis of pools and waterfalls. Baba was the first one to strip down to his bare essentials, and to the sounds of Tarzan-like howls, we watched him dive off a protruding cliff and splash in the ice-cold water like a young otter. The rest of us followed without much hesitation, and before long the idyllic valley had turned into a cartoonish scene of eight gurgling and frolicking city slickers in the nude.

Back at the makeshift amphitheater, an ensemble of mountain people had gathered, sipping beers and trading park stories while patiently waiting to put faces to the pile of cords and speakers that lay sprawled out on their friend's porch. After a few spontaneous welcome hugs, hoots, and post glacier water-induced yodels, we climbed up the creaky staircase to the porch and began to play.

"Sound has filled the air—look around, you are everywhere—what you found is still out there," I heard myself singing to the infectious grooves of the rhythm section, and it felt as if these words had been written with the sole purpose of finding meaning 12 months later, on a Yosemite back porch.

The meadow had transformed into a sea of motion, grownups shaking their

bones in all directions, hula hoops gyrating down the hips of smiling children, and Frisbees zooming through the afternoon heat like flying saucers abandoned by air traffic control. The river's undulated flow had fused with our sound waves, both echoing through the canyon in unison. Playing our instruments felt effortless, almost ethereal. Time had lost its significance.

More than four hours later, we awakened to the fact that we had run out of songs to play. The sun had disappeared behind a dense forest, casting gigantic shadows of pine trees onto the scene. Exhausted but gleeful, we stepped onto the grass to mingle with our newfound friends and fans.

"This was the most amazing experience I've ever had up here!" a sparkly-eyed woman with braids that looked like redwood bark revealed to me after an affectionate hug.

As I was cruising around the meadow, many more people approached, spilling out stories about their lives and the magic of the park. Everyone knew we had just shared an epiphany—we are not alone in this world.

As the rope swing elevated my tired body into the boundless mountain sky for the last time that night, I thought of how closely dreams could dance with reality, of how the two could be joined through the silent wisdom of nature and the spirit of music. For just the blink of an eye—the human pendulum suspended in midair—dreams and reality became one, but before I could elaborate on perfection, the force of gravity pulled me back to earth, where a flock of musicians was anxiously waiting to rise to their own answers.

Writer/musician Sven Eberlein lives on Valencia Street. His band Chemistry Set is currently recording a second CD at Mobius Studio on Sanchez. You can find out more at www.chemistryset.com.

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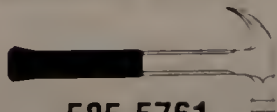
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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature, profiling new stores and businesses in the neighborhood. This month's Store Trek, written by Bill Yard, introduces two financial experts — one specializing in stocks and bonds and the other in home, car, and life insurance.

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If just the sound of the word "NASDAQ" gives you a serious case of the jitters, at least you have company: the stock market's recent convolutions have left even seasoned Montgomery Street pros pondering a switch to decaf. But before you start cashing in your IRAs and stuffing your mattress with 10s and 20s, you might want to talk to Kathy Zucchi, a stock broker now representing Edward Jones Investments in Noe Valley.

A former graphic designer and longtime San Francisco resident, Zucchi returned to her native Midwest in 1994 to complete the training and licensing requirements to operate as a full-service broker. After coming back to the Bay Area in 1998, she began an extensive search for a location in the city. She was particularly attracted to Noe Valley, "because of the people, the weather, and the neighborhood feel." In April, Zucchi opened her office in a remodeled storefront on Diamond near 24th Street.

She's now affiliated with Edward Jones, a nationwide investments firm. "Harvard Business School has ranked Edward Jones an A+ company," she says. "They even teach a class on our firm as a model of what a brokerage firm should be."

In addition to advising clients on their investment choices, Zucchi sends out a monthly newsletter. "My job is to educate people, so they can make informed decisions. Do you really want to be managing all your finances?" she asks. "We take our cars in every few months for service, we visit the doctor regularly, but a lot of us don't seek professional help about our financial health."

She also sorts through the staggering amount of financial information now available on the Internet. "People can't be expected to know everything," she says. "There's a big difference between information and knowledge."

Zucchi brings her clients in for a get-acquainted session, and reviews their employment status, assets, retirement plans, and other objectives such as college tuition or debt reduction. "You have to get the whole picture of the whole person," she notes. "As a result, no two portfolios that I manage are invested the same way."

One tip she has for Noe Valley home-



Edward Jones Investments provides a broad assortment of investing services and information. Pictured is assistant Lee Miller in front of the Diamond Street office. Photo by Beverly Thorp

owners is to "get an estate plan in place. Otherwise, your heirs can be hit hard by taxes, fees, and miles of red tape. I can refer you to some great estate planning attorneys right here in the neighborhood."

What Zucchi does not provide are day-trading services. Nor does she speculate in options, futures, or commodities. "Our investment portfolios are balanced according to our clients' goals, needs, and risk tolerance," she explains. Also, fees at Edward Jones are transaction-based only.

Zucchi, assistant Lee Miller, and administrator Maureen Compton keep the office open from roughly 7 a.m. until early evening, Monday through Friday. Zucchi also counsels clients by appointment on Saturdays. Potential clients can call first, or just visit the office. If you drop by, look for the bright green awning and the quote from Gandhi in the window.

FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP
Dwight Duke, Insurance Agent
 1600 Castro Street (at Clipper)
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Dwight Duke, the Farmers insurance agent assigned to Noe and Eureka valleys, took the long way to get here: he hopped on his motorcycle, left Chicago, and ended up in Rio de Janeiro, at Carnaval. After seven years in Brazil, he met and married his wife Maisa, and decided to return to the States to pursue an insurance career. Settling in San Francisco was an easy choice: "We're a bi-racial couple, so we wanted to live somewhere we'd feel comfortable. This city's famous for its diversity and tolerance."

An important issue affecting the local insurance industry is the recent spike in real estate values. Duke thinks residents need to look over their insurance coverage regularly. "Healthy people spend more on insurance than they do on medical care," he notes, "but it might not be money well spent. They may be spending too much, or have too much coverage, or be underinsured if their property has in-

creased in value."

To help his clients understand their options, Duke offers them a free review of their insurance coverage, then compares their current rates with those of Farmers. "What they do with the information is up to them," he says. "I feel that if I can provide some competitive prices, then I'll get some business."

Sharing an office with Co-op Realty at the corner of Castro and Clipper streets (he moved in last December), Duke offers the gamut of insurance products, including home, auto, and life, as well as other financial services such as IRAs and annuities. He sees a particular need in this neighborhood for renters' insurance, as well as for domestic partner coverage. "Often, when I review the policies of two people living together, I find that they have duplicate coverage in some areas but no coverage in others. So I can sometimes go in and, for the same money, give them more complete protection."

Duke, who walks to work from his home at 21st and Castro, says his clients appreciate the fact that he lives in the neighborhood.

"Who would you rather settle a claim with," he says, "one of your neighbors you can go visit in person, or some anonymous stranger on an 800 number?"

You can call Duke or visit his office between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, or on Saturday mornings by appointment.

Meanwhile, if you notice a guy in a weathered motorcycle jacket who leaves a big envelope in your neighbor's mailbox, then jumps on his bike and roars off, you've probably glimpsed Noe Valley's Farmers agent working his territory.



Farmers Insurance agent Dwight Duke has everything covered from his office at Castro and Clipper. Photo by Charles Kennard



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We're really sorry! But the *Voice* will be out of here for the month of July, and we'll be back to work in August for the September issue. The editorial deadline is Aug. 15.

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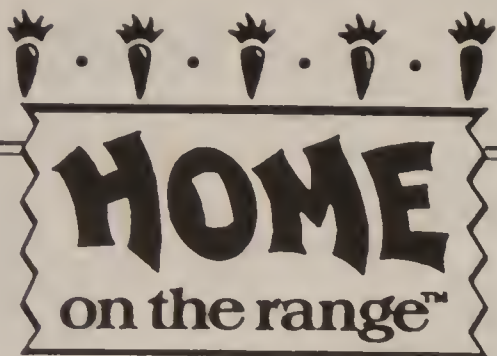


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FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub

Keeping Up with the Joneses

It was at least 42 years ago that I first met Lynne Jones. Like me, she was a regular at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center on Collingwood Street. The rec center held a once-a-week pre-nursery school class for tiny tots, and Lynne and I each had a little boy—2 or 3 years old—who was in need of companionship.

She had David, at the time an only child (she and husband Ray Jones would soon have another). And I had Eric, Leo's and my third son. Eric was 10 years younger than his brother Jan, and 12 years younger than his brother Michael, so he needed to learn that there were other little people in the world like himself.

About 15 kids attended the program. Most parents dropped their youngsters off in the morning and picked them up at the end of the session. But Lynne and I, and another mother, Nancy Shibata, often stayed the entire time to assist Clare, the recreation director. Thinking we were put upon, Clare would shake her head and say, "It is always you three." But the truth was we didn't dare deposit our sons at the door. Our boys were so accustomed to having us at their constant beck and call, we knew Clare would be faced with three yowling kiddies, all convinced they had been abandoned forever.

It was during these mornings that we three like-minded mothers became fast friends. Two years later, when our sons graduated (in tiny caps and gowns), Nancy had to return to help her husband in their busy Noe Valley dry cleaning shop, but Lynne and I had the freedom to take advantage of the other local playgrounds, where there were teeter-totters, swings, slides, and sandboxes to keep the little boys happy as we watched over them and chatted.

I soon learned that Lynne had been a trained nurse who married Ray in 1950 and later moved to San Francisco. Here she worked at U.C. Hospital while Ray established his own business, a Smith-Corona dealership called the American Typewriter Company.

Ray Jones was a natural businessman, efficient and enthusiastic, with an engaging, relaxed sales approach. And he had a helpful wife, Lynne, who always found time to take care of the book-keeping and other chores. It took only a few years before the typewriter business, located on Market between Noe and Sanchez, became a magnet, attracting customers from every walk of life.

To name just a few: There was supervisor, mayor, and U.S. senator-to-be Dianne Feinstein, and another lady of note, artist Ruth Asawa, our Noe Valley neighbor. Everyone's favorite newspaper columnist, Herb Caen, was also a customer, and there was one unforgettable lady who once came in to purchase six typewriters.

This seemed like a great sale, Ray later recalled, but when this woman announced that her chauffeur would bring in her personal check and pick up the goods on Sunday (a day the shop was closed), he became rather uneasy. He knew he could make an exception and open up the shop, but the credit

office through which he could verify her financial reliability was shuttered on Sunday, too. He did not want to be the victim of a scam by this innocent-looking lady. However, he also did not want to lose such a large sale, so he finally agreed to open up the store.

Luckily, Lynne overheard the conversation, recognized the lady's name, and informed Ray after she'd gone that he had no cause for worry. The lady was none other than Lurline Matson Roth, the daughter of the millionaire owner of the Matson Steamship Company. (Mrs. Roth did make good on her promise, and remained a loyal customer for years.)

Although the American Typewriter Company no longer exists, many of us oldtimers fondly remember patronizing Ray's shop.

The years passed, and the Joneses' second son, Steven, was born in 1959. Seven years later, the family hired a contractor to enlarge and modernize their small abode at 28th and Diamond streets. This is when I did a watercolor painting of the original house—something to help Lynne and Ray look back and remember how much they'd accomplished.



Lynne and Ray Jones, shown here in their 1950 wedding portrait, will celebrate their 50th anniversary in August. Photo courtesy of Lynne Jones

Sometimes the Joneses received invitations to go to dinner with business associates, and since we had two teenaged sons, Lynne asked if one of them might be interested in babysitting her boys. My second oldest, Jan, was agreeable, so for many years he became the Joneses' regular helper.

Then, when Ray's thriving business required some extra hands, he hired Jan as a part-time employee to work after school. Ray was the ideal employer—fair, generous, and helpful, with a subtle sense of humor. Within weeks, Jan became proficient at taking apart, cleaning, and putting back together machines of every brand, age, and disability, so Ray had cards printed up identifying Jan Holub as the American Typewriter Company's "Service Manager." This was amusing, because Jan was the only person in the service department.

When they were old enough, the Jones boys—David and Steven—also went to work in the shop, and soon became real buddies with their former babysitter. After they were grown, however, the three young men seemed drawn in different directions.

Jan went off to college at U.C. Santa Barbara. (Still, for years thereafter, Jan often returned to work at American Typewriter. His "part-time job" stayed open until 1981, when Ray decided that it was time to close the shop and retire to his hilltop home on 28th Street.)

David had a yen for the sea, so he went to Hawaii, where he got a job conducting tours aboard a catamaran. There he had a blind date with a law student

from California, for whom he developed an instant attachment. This drew him back to the Bay Area, where he found employment and married the girl, Gail, who is now a practicing lawyer. David's current job as captain of the 78-foot, square-rigged Brigantine sailing ship *Rendezvous* is to conduct tours around the bay for up to 49 passengers per cruise.

A few years ago, we got a delightful taste of David's seafaring skills when we were invited to come aboard the *Rendezvous* to celebrate his father Ray's 75th birthday! The weather couldn't have been more perfect as we departed from Pier 40 on a two-hour sail up the cityfront and out into the bay around Alcatraz for a dazzling close-up view of the Golden Gate Bridge. Then as the sun sank in the west behind the high-rises, the sky was painted in billowing streaks of scarlet and orange. Nearby, a flight of pelicans swooped down to skim the water again and again—it was an unforgettable, magical moment.

Like many modern couples, David and Gail have managed to each hold down a job, even after they produced a son, named Eric. David would take care of Eric when he wasn't on call, and when he had to report for duty, he was able to leave the little boy with his capable grandparents, who were delighted to have him around. When Eric was 2, Lynne asked me to do a pastel sketch of Eric similar to the ones I had done of David and Steven when they were the same age. Two and a half years later, I also did a sketch of Gail and David's second child, Morgan.

When David's younger brother Steven finished school, he landed an excellent position with AT&T. He soon shot up the ladder, and was transferred to Denver, Colo. Recently, Steven was again transferred, this time to Sacramento, where the housing stock is somewhat limited. So, while he and his bride Bonita are waiting for their new home to be finished, he commutes 60 miles to work. That's because they are living next door to their old buddy Jan, in Grass Valley, in the studio attached to the Holub family home.

Over the years, my man Leo and I have attended many parties given by our dear friends. And believe me, the Joneses really know how to throw a party! We now look forward to August, when we'll attend a celebration in honor of Lynne and Ray's 50th wedding anniversary. The party is being given by their children, who suggested in their invitation that instead of gifts, the guests bring something that speaks of Ray and Lynne's life together—a memory, a photograph, or a story.

That last word moved me to sit down in front of our trusty Smith-Corona (1961 model), which our son Michael



bought at the American Typewriter Company when he was a teenager.

And so this article was born, this fleeting glimpse of a devoted couple who have labored, loved, and lived the good life. For 42 years we have been friends, and it always pleases me to see among the framed works on the walls of their home a watercolor of their house as it looked in the '60s; a portrait of their late black poodle, "Snooky"; and four pastels in a row, of each of their children and grandchildren.

I would like to think that in my own way I have been keeping up with the Joneses, and it's been a real pleasure! □

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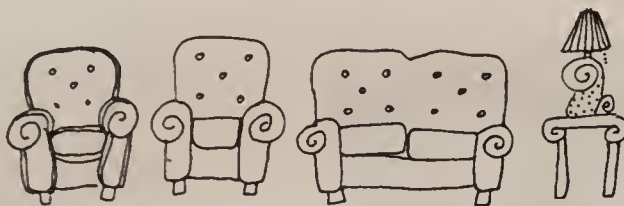

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THE VOICE web site is located at
www.noevalleyvoice.com.

The site has the month's news stories, our Class Ads, and a history of the newspaper and Noe Valley.

It also has Voice archives dating back to December 1996. (Copies of the newsprint edition, starting with our first issue, May 1977, are stored at the Noe Valley Library.) In addition, the web site has a "search" function, to help you look for a particular name or topic. We hope you find it useful.

ARE WE THERE YET?

Family Adventures
Close to Home

OYSTERS 101: A Visit to the Hog Island Oyster Company

By Janis Cooke Newman

"It looks disgusting," 7-year-old Harper tells her dad.

"Just suck it in," he advises.

She presses her lips against the ruffled shell he's holding out and slurps up a raw oyster.

"What do you think?" he asks.

"Mumgh...mumgh," Harper says, holding the raw oyster in her mouth and looking frantically at the ground.

"Over there," her dad tells her, "behind that boat."

With a wet sound, she spits out the oyster, wiping her tongue with the back of her hand.

"Would you like to try one?" I ask my 5-year-old son, Alex.

"Yuck," he says, disappearing behind a wheelbarrow full of oyster shells.

The setting for this sophisticated little culinary drama is the Hog Island Oyster Company in the seaside town of Marshall. We've come—five couples and two kids—to celebrate a 40-something birthday with vast quantities of raw bivalves. On the picnic table is a cooler filled with Lagunitas Amber Ale, several bowls of dirty rice and Cajun coleslaw, and one hundred Hog Island oysters—pretty much all the grownups need to have a good time. The kids might be another story.

Are We There Yet? is a Voice feature about places to go and things to do with your kids. If there's an activity or outing you'd like to see explored, please email

Janis Cooke Newman at

j-newman@pacbell.net or the Noe Valley Voice at jaxvoice@aol.com.



Barbequed bivalve mollusks are only part of the allure at the Hog Island Oyster Company in Marshall, a great spot to picnic with family and friends.
Photo by Ken Newman

Fortunately, the Hog Island Oyster Company sits beside a wide flat beach, and before we can even uncover the *mignonette* (dipping sauce for the oysters), Alex and Harper have grabbed Alex's dog and are ankle deep in the briny-smelling mud. The more dexterous of the grownups start shucking the oysters, with knives provided by Hog Island. Meanwhile, somebody else lights the coals in an old round-bellied Weber, also provided by Hog Island.

Across from our table, a lone white horse stands grazing on a green hill, unaware that he's right on the edge of being a cliché. Out past where the dog is rolling in seaweed is the blue-green water of Tomales Bay—the same bay the raw oyster currently sliding over my tongue was swimming in just this morning.

"Look what I found!" Alex exclaims, putting another batch of muddy oyster shells in my backpack. On a busy day, Hog Island sells around 15,000 oysters, and the ground in the picnic area is white with their bleached shells.

I take Alex over to a tin-roofed building to buy a couple dozen kumamotos, tiny sweet-tasting oysters with frilled shells. While we wait our turn, we watch a woman in rubber overalls sorting oysters by size. Her gloved hands dance above a wooden table, dealing oysters into bushels like a croupier at a blackjack table.

Back at the barbecue, one couple is salsa dancing to Brazilian music blaring out of speakers hung above the tubs of oysters and Manila clams. The 40-something birthday boy is busy covering the

smoking grill with oysters on the half shell, filling each one with his secret ingredient: Safeway Select barbecue sauce. We've already lost the bottle opener, and Harper's dad is showing us how he can open beer using the neck of a water bottle.

"That's amazing," somebody tells him.

"How can you tell if something is art?" he asks.

"How?"

"You can't open a beer with it."

I eat a barbecued oyster. It's smoky and salty, and the Safeway Select is tangy and sweet. Out near the shoreline, Alex and Harper are climbing around on a beached oyster boat. The dog is rolling around on a dead fish.

"Can I have more of that forbidden rice?" asks one of our literary friends.

"Dirty rice," somebody else corrects him, piling his plate high with rice and beans and bits of andouille sausage.

I get Harper's dad to open another Lagunitas Amber for me and watch the sun sending shadows on the Hog Island buildings, pale yellow clapboard with green trim and Christmas lights. Behind the buildings lean groves of cypress trees, permanently bent into shape by the wind.

"Now look what I found!" Alex shouts. In his palm is a tiny crab, no bigger than his fingernail.

"Hey, Harper," says her dad, "do you want to try a barbecued oyster?"

Reluctantly, she spears an oyster from the grill and puts it in her mouth, chewing with her eyes closed.

"What do you think?" her dad asks.

"I like it," she tells him. "It tastes just like chicken." □

Hog Island Driving and Dipping Directions

The Hog Island Oyster Company (415-663-9218) is located on Highway 1 in Marshall, about 15 minutes north of Point Reyes Station. (Allow an hour and a half from Noe Valley.) Hog Island is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oysters cost \$7 to \$10 a dozen, or \$45 to \$60 for 100 count, depending on size. Hog Island provides the picnic tables and barbecues. You provide the charcoal and the rest of the food and drink. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Bring an extra set of clothes for your kids—it's muddy out there.

While I like my raw oysters served in their own brine, you might want to try dipping them in Hog Island's *mignonette*. Here's the recipe:

Hog Wash

- 1/2 cup seasoned rice vinegar
- 1/2 cup unseasoned (natural) rice vinegar
- Juice of 2 limes
- 2 jalapeño chilies, seeded and finely diced
- 2 shallots, peeled and finely chopped
- 1/2 bunch cilantro, coarsely chopped

Mix all above ingredients and serve in a bowl with a small spoon alongside two to three dozen small shucked Hog Island sweetwater or Hog Island kumamoto oysters. If making Hog Wash ahead, add cilantro just before serving.

—Janis Cooke Newman

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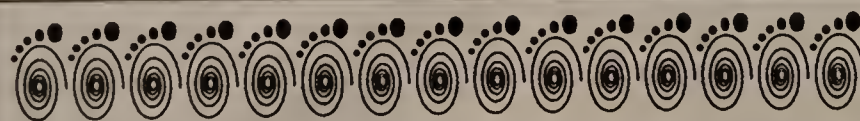


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MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

By Maire Farrington

A'Noah East Wang

A'Noah East Wang's official birth date is April 5, 1999. But, says his dad, Hong Wang, "he was born across midnight. His head came out on the 4th, Easter Sunday, and his body came out on the 5th, the birthday of Guan Yin Bodhisattva. So he has two things on his shoulders, the East and the West. Between Christianity and Buddhism, he has to be the bridge."

The birth "was a bit traumatic," says Mom, Rachel Long. After 27 hours of labor, Rachel was told that she would need to deliver by cesarean section.

But the Wangs, both practitioners of Chinese medicine, wanted to keep trying. "The doctor told me in Western terms what was happening, but it meant nothing to me," recalls Hong. "Finally she said, 'The baby's head is tilted,' and I said, 'Thank you. That's what I need to know.'"

Hong then led Rachel through a visualization to get the baby to change its position. Says Hong, "After half an hour, they said, 'No more. We have to dress to get ready for the operation. Everybody's tired. The baby's tired, the mother's tired, and we are tired.'"

Thinking he could stall the doctors further, Hong suited up and joined them in the operating room. "There were about 15 people in there," he relates. "The operating team was ready, and I said again, 'Give me one more chance.' So Rachel took a deep breath and screamed, two screams. A big scream went out and came back, and then she pushed and his head came out, about two minutes before midnight. The whole thing happened in five minutes. His body came out and the cord was cut."

Rachel's mother, Lenore Long, was also present at San Francisco General Hospital during the birth. Baby weighed in at a healthy 7 pounds, 7 ounces, and Dad says he was so relieved that "I cried for a whole day and a whole night. In the afternoon we were with the baby and he started to sneeze, and then I started to laugh. I was in an altered state, but a very correct state, very relaxed."

Naming the baby was also a mystical experience. "I thought the sound [of Noah] was so soft and very pleasant to the ear, when I first heard it from an Indian man," says Rachel. "And there's the association with the historical figure." The soft A was added, creating a unique name for their son. His middle name, East, "just came to me pretty strongly," she continues. "Easter Sunday maybe, and the sun rises in the east. And it could mean a person who brings rebirth."

In addition to performing acupressure and other forms of Chinese medicine, Rachel, 30, and Hong, 35, provide nutritional counseling for vegetarians and vegans. Rachel has a special interest in working with vegetarian nursing mothers.

The couple met in 1994 at a *qi gong* (energy movement) conference in Beijing, where Hong practiced Chinese medicine and Rachel attended the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine. "It was really instantaneous," Rachel says of their whirlwind romance. "He proposed a week later."

"I only gave her three days," Hong confirms. "I said, 'Take it or leave it,' because there were so many girls standing in line," he jokes. "She was quick. She took it, to the bad news of many other girls."

"It was a cold winter in Beijing," Rachel quips.



A'Noah Wang's mom, Rachel, and dad, Hong, met in Beijing. The family is now building a home in China.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

In April 1995, the couple moved to their home on 27th Street, adjacent to the home of Rachel's grandmother, Trilby James, and mother Lenore, who was born and raised in Noe Valley.

A'Noah has "brownish-greenish" eyes and reddish-blond hair and six teeth. At 13 months, he is a bundle of energy. This may be due to his vegan diet of lighter foods, says his mom. Favorite nibbles include cherries, watermelon, pears, and steamed chard. "As a vegan baby, he's now above average in height, so if you put him next to a two-year-old, he's exactly the same height," says Rachel. "A lot of people have the [mistaken] idea that he should be a midget," she laughs. "He does fine, he's had no ear infections."

A'Noah's robust constitution drew some attention when he visited China, Hong says. "In China, people said, 'Wow! Only five months and he's so big. It's because they have all that good milk [in the United States].'" When I told my friends he basically eats fruits and vegetables, they said, "Miracle! Miracle! We don't believe it."

Rachel is taking care of A'Noah full-time, and Hong has arranged his schedule to be with him three days a week. "But still it doesn't feel like enough," Hong says. "That's why we're moving back to the mountains, to my hometown, where everything is much more relaxed and laid back. People don't wear watches."

The Wangs are building a home at the edge of a town near the Himalaya mountains in China. "The southern edge disappears into a private valley with creeks," says Hong. "It's a very beautiful place with a lot of temples. It's behind my old village, and there's a closeby temple where I went to primary school." A'Noah will be attending the same school, and "my mother will be living with us, and my sisters will be staying with us on weekends, so the whole family will be together."

In the meantime, A'Noah is enjoying life in Noe Valley. He likes to spend time outdoors and frequently visits Douglass Park. Outgoing by nature, he laughs a lot and is very people-oriented. "At the park, he crawls up to others and wants to hug them, or if they're sitting on the grass, he'll crawl over them," says Rachel. "He has no separation or stranger anxiety yet."

"He likes all human beings," says his dad. "He treats everybody the same, ex-

cept for Grandma. She's a favorite because she gets him to play all the crazy games like throwing and catching things. And she taught him how to honk the horn on the car. So he likes Grandma best."

"He's very gentle, very mellow. When he wants something or when he's tired, he doesn't get too angry," Rachel notes. "With eating, though, he gets really excited."

A'Noah's latest discovery is clapping his hands. He's also fascinated with clocks—"the bigger the better," says Mom. "I'll take the clock off the wall and put him on the bed, and he'll sit and look at it, the back and the front. And Grandma taught him how to say, 'Tick-tock, tick-tock.'"

A'Noah likes to climb and explore, and he should be walking any day now. "He's cruising still," says Rachel. "He hasn't taken his first step yet, but he's much more confident."

Mom is enjoying "just being a child again with this child. Going to the park and relearning all the old nursery songs.

Trying to remember to watch and to observe. To see him as a human being, and not just a baby," she says.

"It's like looking at yourself, revisiting your childhood and its many parts," Hong adds. "He teaches you how to be calm and relaxed, and to see that time is relative. It's like it says in the Bible, 'A child shall lead you.' But," he laughs, "meanwhile you have to lead him, too." □

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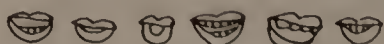
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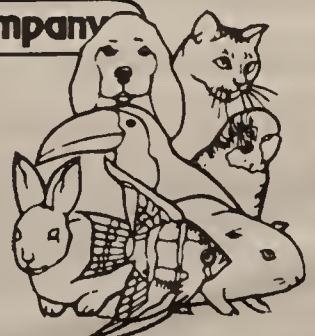
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MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

By Maire Farrington

Razmig Nishan Makasdjian

Razmig Nishan Makasdjian was scheduled to be a Y2K baby, but he insisted on arriving two days before the turn of the millennium, on Dec. 30, 1999.

"It was fast and furious," says his mother, Roxanne Makasdjian. "I was in labor all night, but I didn't realize it."

Roxanne's doctor had told her that her back pain was probably false labor and to remain at home. Finally, husband Ara Makasdjian insisted on taking her to California Pacific Medical Center. "On the way to the hospital, I said, 'Man, if this is false labor, what is real labor like?!' It was enormous pain," Roxanne relates. "As soon as we got there, I found out I was seven and a half centimeters dilated, so I had gone through a lot at home."

"Everything stopped when we got to the hospital," she continues. "At one point, they lost his heartbeat and they didn't know why. The baby was in distress and they said, 'We have to deliver the baby right now because we don't know what's wrong. We can't take time for niceties.'" Following some intensive pushing and the use of suction cups, baby arrived at 8:41 a.m., weighing exactly 6 pounds.

With all the commotion, it was a few minutes before Roxanne knew whether she had delivered a son or a daughter. "When he came out, the doctor just said, 'It's a beautiful baby,' and I was relieved. They put him in his father's arms, and nobody told me whether it was a boy or a girl. So finally I stuck my head up after ten minutes and asked."

Razmig is an Armenian name meaning warrior or fighter, "in a good sense," says Mom. Nishan, which translates to Mark, is after Roxanne's great uncle. Ara likes to call his son Razmig the Great, but baby is just as happy with Booboo, Coco, Razzmatazz, or Razzle-Dazzle.

He has light brown hair and blue-gray eyes and beautiful long dark eyelashes. "His lips are exactly like Roxanne's," says Ara. Lately she's been saying, "You're not allowed to kiss him on the lips. Whenever you feel like kissing him on the lips, you can kiss me—it's the same lips."

"He's been easy," Roxanne says. "We've got a running joke going. Whenever we hear a crying baby, my husband and I look at each other and say, 'Well, that can't be Razmig.' He was like that in the hospital, where there were babies crying all around us. Every time a nurse would come in the room, Ara would ask, 'What's all that crying out there?' and the nurse would look at him like, 'You're in a maternity ward! What are you talking about?' It was Ara's way of showing how proud he was that his baby was quiet."

"He's going to be a happy person and content," Ara says. "I do see myself in him, in the way that he doesn't complain much. He does the best with what he has. If he has two ounces of milk, he'll drink and not complain about it."

Like his dad, Razmig is fond of napping, and sometimes father and son will nap together. He smiles easily, and has an easygoing, sociable nature. "If he's fussy, it's for a reason," says Ara. "Either he's hungry or he needs to be changed or he's tired and he wants to sleep. We think he might be teething early because he seems to be biting and gnawing at everything."

"Everyone has been telling us that he seems very alert for his age," Roxanne says. "When he was first born, he couldn't really see, but he was always bright-eyed and looking around, constantly. Even the



Razmig Makasdjian checks out the view from atop dad Ara, with mom Roxanne looking on.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

doctor commented about him being so active. He said, 'That's good, but be aware that you're going to have a bundle of movement on your hands at every moment.'"

Ara is hoping that his son will channel some of that energy into father-son activities. "I would like to take him swimming. I would like him to play soccer, because I've played soccer all my life and I still do. My nephew, who is seven, plays regularly. So hopefully Razmig will follow in our footsteps."

Ara, 42, a lithographer, and Roxanne, 39, a television news producer, first met in 1985 while participating in activities through the Armenian community. It wasn't until 1994 that they became reacquainted and began dating. In 1995, the couple were married and moved into their home on Jersey Street.

The Makasdjians recently hosted 50 adults and 15 children for Razmig's baptism at St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church. His baptismal outfit was fashioned from extra fabric from Roxanne's redesigned wedding dress. "Afterwards we had a restaurant reception, and I never saw Razmig—he was always in somebody else's lap," she says.

Attending the big event was the Makasdjians' nephew, 13-month-old Aram Parnagian, who flew in from New York City with his parents to meet his baby cousin. "He may be a future Noe Valley resident," Ara says. "We're trying to convince them." The two hit it off like a couple of old pals. "As soon as Aram saw him, he said, 'Baby, baby,'" Roxanne says. "We set them up close to each other on the bed, and Aram took Razmig's feet and started clapping his feet together."

Razmig likes to hang out in his bedroom, where local artist Margaret Daly painted a mural with blue sky, clouds, and a depiction of Mt. Ararat, an Armenian symbol of national importance. On his wall is a lithograph of the letters of the Armenian alphabet, done in the style of illuminated manuscripts. Baby's begun reaching out for his toys and holding them, and he smiles at the baby faces in his picture book. But, says Dad, "you can give him as many toys as you want, he still prefers people."

Family time is "mostly playing on the bed together," says Roxanne, but Saturdays are reserved for weekly jaunts to the Embarcadero. "We sit and have coffee and buy our groceries at the Farmers' Market. Then we go to North Beach and buy some focaccia. After North Beach,

we go to the perinatal center at California Pacific and we weigh Razmig, and we're always thrilled with the results. Who would know that it would be such a thrill to see his weight gain? 'Oh, my God, he did another ounce per day!'"

Then it's off to visit Ara's parents, Loucine and Hagop Makasdjian. "We report the results of the weigh-in, and they're just as thrilled as we are," says Roxanne. "They play with him, and sometimes we all go out to Ocean Beach."

Bath time is another favorite routine. "After a bath we stand him in front of the heater vents," says Mom. "We turn up the heat real high so it blows and we dry him off that way. He loves it."

"I consider him a gift for us," says Ara. "I think every family should have a baby like this. Whenever he's awake, I can't do anything else—I just want to be around him. A movement will make me happy. If he drinks his milk on time, he makes me happy. If he sleeps, he makes me happy."

If he wakes up, he makes me happy. It's just overwhelming joy to be around him, period."

"He's just added to the love in our life," Roxanne reflects. "When I look down at him, I feel totally in love all over again. One little smile makes up for twenty diaper changes. I really feel fulfilled." □

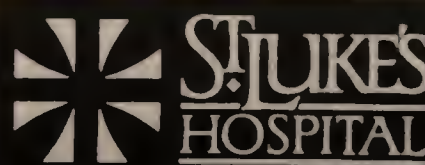
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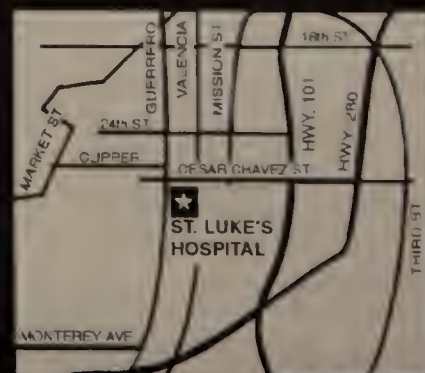
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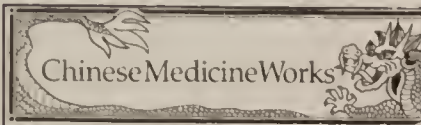
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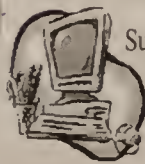
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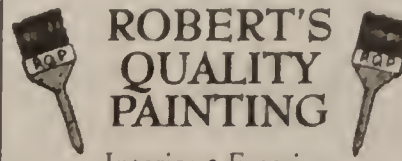
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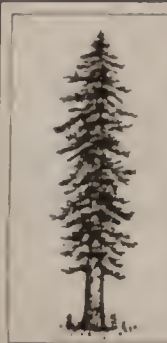
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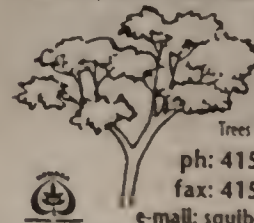
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Advocates for Upper Noe Rec Center

Contact: Greg Clark, 719-8828
Mailing Address: Call Greg Clark for info.
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, in the auditorium at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230; capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association

Contact: Ed White, 774-3237
Mailing Address: First Church of God, 3728 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Last Thursday of month, First Church of God, 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Dennis Downing, 441-9243; Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m. Call for summer holiday schedule.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday (except July, August, and December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month, Glen Park Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Harry Stern, 821-1086, or harrystern@aol.com
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

La Leche League of San Francisco

Contact: Thalia DeWolf, 641-8366
Mailing Address: 47 Costa St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, Bernal Heights Library, Cortland & Moultrie, 10:15 a.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: Katherine Pietrycha, president; Katherine.Pietrycha@wcom.com
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44, San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Executive board meets first Tuesday of month; general meetings quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Courts Coalition

Contact: Dr. Tom Mills, secretary.
Voicemail: 675-0110; nichapin@aol.com.
Mailing Address: Noe Courts Coalition, P.O. Box 460520, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: Irregular. Call for information.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087
Mailing Address: 167 Valley Street, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Second Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8692
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick, Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114-6003
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association

Contact: Debra Niemann, 641-4934, or Krista Keegan, 550-9050
Mailing Address: 4171 23rd St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Last Thursday of month, Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.



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BOOKS *in our* BRANCH

This month's new books list, provided by librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small, features a thriller from Michael Ondaatje, Julia Butterfly Hill's account of the two years she lived in a giant redwood, and a collection of recipes from Mollie Katzen for ages 8 and up. To check out a book's availability, call 695-5095, or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro. In addition to books, the branch offers magazines, CDs, music, an outside deck, a computer with Internet access, and the archives of the *Noe Valley Voice*. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 to 9; Wednesdays, 1 to 9; Thursdays, 10 to 6; Fridays, 1 to 6; and Saturdays, 10 to 6.

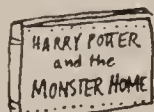
Adult Fiction

◆ In *Anvil's Ghost* by *English Patient* author Michael Ondaatje, a forensic anthropologist attempts to solve a series of murders.

◆ *Demolition Angel*, a thriller by Robert Crais, features a bomb-squad technician overwhelmed by memories of an explosion that killed her lover.

◆ In *The Run*, by Stuart Woods, Will Lee, a senator from Georgia, becomes the target of a clandestine plot.

◆ *The Toughest Indian in the World*, a new collection of short stories by Sherman Alexie, portrays American Indians from all walks of life.



Adult Nonfiction

◆ Alphabetically arranged, *Blended Medicine*, by local author Michael Castleman, presents the natural, alternative, and mainstream medical treatment choices for over 100 ailments.

◆ *The Book of Honor*, by Ted Gup, pays tribute to many of the men and women who died anonymously in the service of the CIA.

◆ *Five Sisters*, by James Fox, traces the lives of the Langhorne sisters of Virginia from the time of the Civil War. Among them were Nancy Astor and Irene Gibson, the model for the Gibson Girl.

◆ *The Legacy of Luna*, by Julia Butterfly Hill, describes her two-year-long "treesit" in Humboldt County, on behalf of the ancient redwoods.

Annotations by Roberta Greifer
Head Librarian, Noe Valley Branch

Children's Fiction

◆ If you enjoy photographs of dogs and also want to learn the alphabet, Henry Horenstein's *Arf! Beg! Catch! Dogs from A to Z* is the perfect book for you. *Ages 2 to 5.*

◆ Some of the universal truths relating to motherhood are heartwarming described and illustrated in Laura Leuck's *My Monster Mama Loves Me So*, illustrated by Mark Buehner. *Ages 3 to 5.*

◆ In the posthumously published *Another Important Book*, Margaret Wise Brown reviews for children some of the main features of their first few years of life. *Ages 4 to 6.*

◆ A devoted pet owner must overcome numerous obstacles in order to care for his pet properly in the easy reader *Tiny's Bath*, by Cari Meister. *Ages 5 to 7.*

◆ With Dog and Rat, the need for companionship eventually wins out over their other feelings about each other in *Don't Need Friends*, by Carolyn Crimi. *Ages 5 to 7.*

◆ In *The Troll with No Heart in His Body and Other Tales of Trolls from Norway*, Lise Lunge-Larsen retells stories she heard and enjoyed as a child. *Ages 6 to 9.*

◆ For a while it seems to Emma that she will have a terrible year, but then a new friendship and membership in a club make a big difference in *Leaving Emma*, by Nancy Steele Brokaw. *Ages 9 and up.*

Children's Nonfiction

◆ Mollie Katzen's delicious new collection of recipes for you to try at home is *Honest Pretzels and 64 Other Amazing Recipes for Cooks Ages 8 and Up*. *Ages 8 and up, with adult help at times.*

Annotations by Carol Small
Children's Librarian, Noe Valley Branch

Preschool Story Time

◆ Kids 3 to 5 are invited to the library's preschool story time, Tuesdays at 10 a.m. on July 11, 18, and 25, and Aug. 1, 8, 15, and 29.

Infant and Toddler Lapsits

◆ Stories, lullabies, and fingerplays are on the agenda at the lapsits, for parents and their little ones. Wednesdays, July 5, 12, 19, and 26; and Aug. 2, 9, 16, and 30.

Walt Anthony, Conjuror

◆ Walt Anthony performs a program of magic, for ages 6 and up, based on the Harry Potter books. Saturday, July 8, at 11 a.m.

Rhythm Salad's Beat Bonanza

◆ Children age 4 and up are invited to explore *rhythm* and make music when Rhythm Salad presents Beat Bonanza. Saturday, July 29, at 11 a.m.

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Mission: Impossible? My wife and I are looking for a one-bedroom in Noe Valley. We have been Noe Valley residents for five years now, and have to move because of a building sale. We are hoping to find a nice, clean apartment for \$1,300 or less, with or without parking, although a parking spot would be ideal. I work at Cover to Cover books on 24th, and have been there for over a year. My wife is a professional violinist and music teacher who plays in a variety of orchestras and shows throughout the Bay Area. We are quiet, clean, and professional, and can supply quality references upon request. If you have an apartment and feel that personality in your tenants is more important than stock portfolios, we are your couple! Cory and Kayo, 415-282-3206.

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Food Coach Pattie Gerrie. 285-4868. Get the support you need to achieve your ideal weight. Find peace with food and overcome obsessive dieting.

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Beginning Mosaic Workshops with longtime Potrero Hill artist. Create a mosaic stepping stone: original art for your garden. All materials provided. One weekend, July 22 and 23, or Aug. 12 and 13. Hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 3 p.m. Call for a brochure: Joni at 648-6740.

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Trash the Throwaway Society! Recycle Technology! will take your non-functioning technological objects. 415-282-SHOP (7467).

Make Yourself Comfortable (and help someone else relax, too!). Breema is fun to do, mutually beneficial, time-proven bodywork (done fully clothed on a padded floor), based on nine principles for living harmoniously. For health professionals, families (ages 12 plus), and everyone else. Monthly workshops at the Noe Valley Ministry. In July, July 9, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. \$40 (\$30 if paid by July 5). 415-255-7947.



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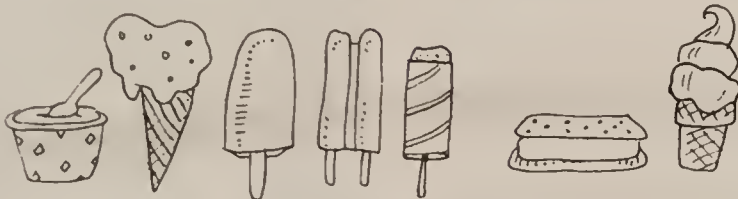
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Yoga Practice for Asthmatics. Learn techniques to strengthen your lungs, increase breathing capacity, and reduce stress or panic during spasms. Minimize dependence upon medications by learning natural, healing approaches. Wednesday, Aug. 2, 6 to 9 p.m. \$16. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Child Care. Wanted: one newborn to love. I am mature, a non-smoker, with my own car. Excellent recent local references. 415-587-6547.

Hot Flash! Midlife Women's Groups in Noe Valley. Meet with women your age, supporting each other through the struggles, challenges, and joys of midlife. We are trailblazers and elders-in-training, redefining what aging means to us. Arlene Dumas, L.C.S.W. 415-641-4553.



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B&B. Classic townhouse located in one of San Francisco's most secluded neighborhoods, and yet minutes to wonderful restaurants, shopping, and public transportation. With views of Eureka and Noe Valleys. Piazza and private rose garden. Ideal for visiting friends or business travelers. Non-smoking, adults only. Two-day minimum stay. 415-863-9550, ext. 4.

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Ayurveda Vegetarian Cooking Class. In this class we will discuss the basic body types and foods appropriate for each, while preparing a tasty meal of tea, grains, vegetable dishes, and dessert to be enjoyed by all. Taught by Ayurvedic practitioner Vijay Stallings. Sunday, Aug. 6, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$35. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

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The Scoop on Class Ads

IT'S EASY. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **30¢ A WORD**, and send us a check or money order for the total amount. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as just one word.)

Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15TH OF THE MONTH** before the month you'd like to advertise in. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

10 FOR 10 DISCOUNT: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the September 2000 issue, distributed in Noe Valley starting Sept. 1. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS AUG. 15, 2000.**

Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or email at this time. However, there's one consolation: The ads are displayed on our web site free of charge. Go to www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you.

Dog Walkers Wanted! Walk one or two dogs at a time! Car needed. Dog Walking Service of San Francisco, 731-0120.

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Words Wanted: The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poems, stories, and essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Send manuscript and self-addressed, stamped envelope, plus name, phone, and email to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.



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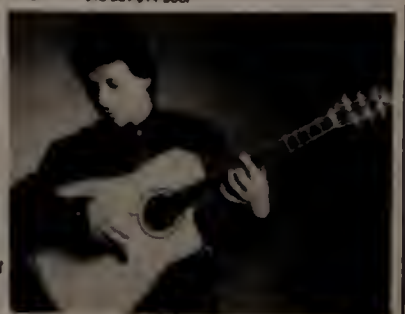
Fri. Aug. 25 **Duck Baker, Carla Kihlstedt & Ben Goldberg** \$12 adv/\$14 door

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

The Longest Day

By Mazook

NOE VALLEY CELEBRATED the summer solstice June 21 while in the midst of a fog wave. The record heat the week before marked the end of the Noe Valley spring. As all real Noe Valleons know, the summer solstice marks the first day of our 75-day fog season. Just in time for the tourists. If it's heat you want, go east. We can all look forward to mid-September when summer will finally arrive in Noe Valley.

The heat wave was fun. Temperatures soared above 100 degrees. As Twin Peaks held back the ocean breezes, barbecue scents wafted through the air and Giants games reverberated between houses. Iced-coffee drinkers filled the benches of 24th Street and watched the promenade of locals clad in shorts and sandals. Everyone was happy—except for those who couldn't find a seat.

☺☺☺

WE NEED MORE BENCHES. Especially for older people to sit on. So early this spring, the kind and generous East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club set out to donate a few to 24th Street.

At its May meeting, the East & West heard a presentation by member Carol Yenne on the kind of benches that would be best to buy. Carol, who is the owner of Small Frys on 24th Street and a v.p. in the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, has had a nice bench in front of her shop for over a decade.

She told the group, which had already set aside money to purchase two benches, that the ideal street furniture would be Webeor Steel PVC (plastic-coated) benches with arms. "They are comfortable and basically indestructible at a cost of about \$500 each," said Carol.

She also restated the club's goals: "We want to improve the quality of life on 24th Street and to have at least one bench on every block, and try to place them near benchless bus stops, if possible."

But nothing is easy. East & West President Paul Kantus says the group has since learned that special arrangements must be made for placement of benches on the sidewalk, and that merchants must step forward who will adopt and take care of each bench and, most importantly, assume the liability and have insurance for any claims arising out of the use of the benches. "Our members are concerned that if something goes wrong, our club will be sued," says Paul.

For now, the bench donation plan has been tabled.

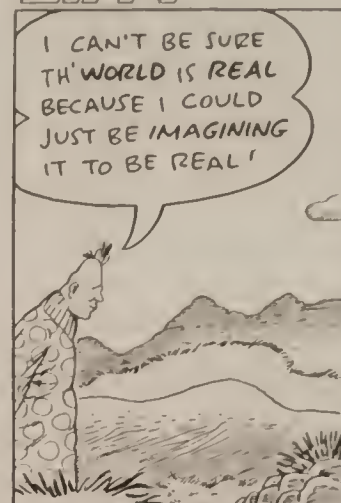
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A NEW ANGLE ON PARKING: Meanwhile, the Merchants' plan to create more parking in Downtown Noe Valley is on a roll at Silly Hall (as Herb Caen used to say).

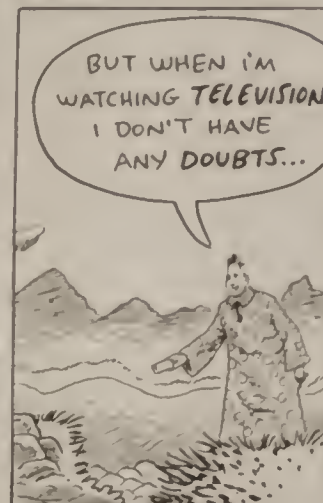
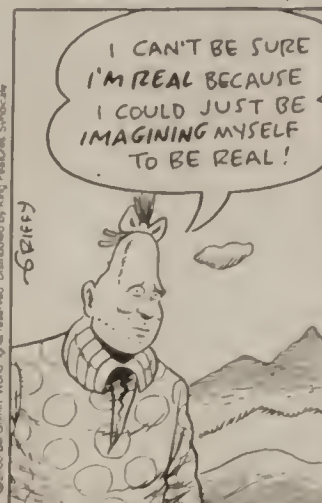
Over the past few months, Carol Y. and M&P president Bob Roddick have been accelerating their drive for diagonal parking on Castro between 24th and Clipper streets. They drafted a petition and got it signed by well over half of the residents on those three blocks.

And now they've gotten a boost from the supes. Supervisors Mark Leno and Sue Bierman introduced a resolution on June 12 "urging the Department of Parking and Traffic to expedite the process of creating diagonal parking on both sides of the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Castro

ZIPPER



"REALITY PROGRAMMING"



BILL GRIFFITH



Street and the eastern side of the 1500 block of Castro Street." The board passed it unanimously.

Leno was impressed with the Merchants' preparation. "They did all their homework on this one."

By combing city records, Bob and Carol had found out that there used to be diagonal parking on these blocks, and, further, in the 1930s the federal government widened Castro Street by about 10 feet to facilitate the diagonal parking.

Leno says that unless the mayor vetoes the resolution, which he thinks is very doubtful, "we'll have Department of Parking and Traffic working with us, and hopefully we [can get over] the Muni concerns." Muni is worried about traffic delays and rider safety on the 24-Divis.

Carol Yenne is crossing her fingers. "For years, the only thing the city has done is take parking spaces away from us," she says. "This is the first time that anything has been done since the '60s to help our commercial district add public parking, and that was when the old Noe Valley Merchants Association bought the lot between [what is now] Hopwell's and Radio Shack and got the city to accept it as a gift and make it a parking lot."

I say make those three blocks of Castro a "slow zone" and put the parking diagonally in the middle of the street, with the bus traffic closest to the sidewalk. Oh, and add a stop sign on Castro at Jersey while you're at it.

☺☺☺

MARKET QUOTES: Say goodbye to Tom Maravilla and Mike Meishke. The two partners have sold their popular Mikeytom Market on the corner of Church and Day to Noushin Jiwani. The new owner will take over at the end of July.

"I've been working seven days a week for seven years, and I just had to stop," explains Tom. "It was not an easy decision. I am really going to miss the daily contact with so many great people."

He also cited the rise in cost of living for his employees. "I'll tell you, it is really hard to get people to help in the store because of the economy and high rents. We couldn't afford to pay the money it now takes for people to be able to live in this city."

Tom says Mikeytom's new owner, who hails from the South Bay, is planning to continue the grocery store and make minimal changes to the product lines.

☺☺☺

AFTER 20 YEARS on the corner of Castro and Jersey, Mylene's Beauty Salon is closing down. Mylene Carol and four other salon workers are taking spots down the street at A Cut Above Castro (at 24th). Five other hairdressers are leaving the neighborhood.

Mylene is wistful about the loss. "I was born right here in Noe Valley, three doors up from the shop, which has been a beauty salon for over 50 years," she says. "It was originally a rooming house called Horner's Corner." It now has one commercial store and three residences upstairs.

The fate of Horner's Corner is presently unknown, as the building is rumored to have been sold at a sheriff's sale to the highest bidder.

Sorry also to say goodbye to Ray Shibata, a longtime Noe Valley resident and owner of Casey Cleaners, a 24th Street institution from the '60s to '80s. Ray died last month at the age of 72. His wife Nancy, son Timothy, and other family and friends paid a loving tribute at a memorial service June 17. Casey Cleaners was where Workwear is now, and where Bak-ers of Paris was before. So long, Ray.

☺☺☺

SHORT SHIRTS: Most everyone knows that Java 'n' More at Church and Clipper is now Java 'n' Less. The failing coffee-house disappeared suddenly a couple of months ago. But the good news is the storefront is going to be occupied by the lemon-fresh Lovejoy's Tea Room, which was set to move July 1 from its former location at Church and 24th.... Star Bakery, a fixture at Church and 29th since 1889, is for sale, along with the building in which it is located.... A sign of the political times

is that local Demos have formed a new club, the District 8 Democratic Club. According to founder Robert Ortega, the new club has over 200 members and is headquartered in Eureka Valley.

☺☺☺

ELIZABETH STREET filmmaker Mark Olesko is about to release his first feature-length film, titled *Left for Dead*. Mark, who teaches "non-linear, computer-based" video editing at the Academy of Art College, wrote, produced, directed, and edited this 94-minute digital work.

Mark filmed his movie in three months using a crew of 12 and at a cost of \$4,000. Mark says the movie "is a dark thriller about a family who owns a pharmaceutical company."

Mark urges everyone to check out the very high image quality on the screen of two recent releases that also used digital video, namely *Buena Vista Social Club* and *Celebration*. Good luck, Mark.

☺☺☺

Continued on Next Page

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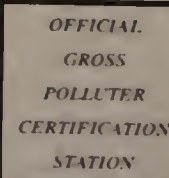
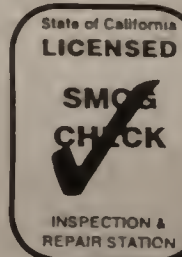
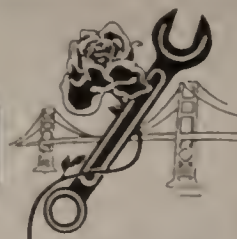
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What You Really Want to Do Is Write

Continued from The Last Page

uled to read the story at tonight's workshop. As soon as you arrive at work, you leave a message on the mentor's answering machine.

"I have contracted a very serious ear infection," you tell the machine, "and although I am heartsick about it, I must drop your class because I cannot hear well enough to participate in the tradition of oral storytelling and spontaneous feedback."

You hang up. There. Done. Relief. You promise yourself that you will spend the three hours that you would have spent in the workshop every week writing stories.

24. Four and a half weeks pass. You still have not found time to write. You realize that you don't work well without deadlines. You need to belong to a workshop, if only for the deadline pressure it creates for you.

Your roommate, who also wants to write, tells you about a workshop led by the editor of a literary magazine who also writes novels (which he self-publishes). This workshop is even more costly than the one taught by the first-time novelist's mentor, but the editor of the literary magazine often publishes his students' work in the magazine.

25. The following Monday. You call the editor of the literary magazine and are disappointed to learn that there is a six-month waiting list for his workshop. You put your name on the waiting list.

26. A month goes by. You consider going back to school to get an MFA in creative writing. After all, you really did want to major in English in college. You read in *Publisher's Weekly* that the University of Iowa, Columbia University, UC Irvine, and NYU have the top writing programs in the nation.

27. The next day. You request applications

from the writing programs at the University of Iowa, Columbia University, UC Irvine, and NYU.

28. A week later. You receive two of the applications in the mail and learn that each school requires that an applicant submit 25 pages of fiction. "A Fish Out of Water" is only 12 pages long. You need to come up with another 13 pages in time to meet the deadlines next month.

You do not have time this month to write another 13 pages of fiction. You are overwhelmed and overworked as it is, trying to obtain signoffs from five levels of brand management so the packaging for the new Vegetables 'n' Chunky Cheese Sauce line can be printed in time for the rollout next month.

29. That afternoon. You decide to borrow 13 pages of your roommate's "coming of age" novel in progress, *Self-Sufficiency*.

Unlike your father, who has done nothing but discourage your creative endeavors, your roommate's father helps her pay her share of the rent so she only has to work part-time and can write the rest of the time.

When your roommate is at her Pilates yoga class tomorrow night, you will borrow *Self-Sufficiency* from her desk drawer, type up a new title page that includes your name instead of hers, drive to Kinko's, make four copies of what you consider the best 13 pages of the manuscript, and submit them with your application to the creative writing departments at the University of Iowa, Columbia, UC Irvine, and NYU. This is just so you can be accepted into their MFA programs. Once you're in, you will do all of your own writing.

30. That evening. You ask your roommate's permission to read *Self-Sufficiency*. You read all 253 manuscript pages. It is a horrible novel, really, really horrible. You are a much better writer than your roommate. Borrowing 13 pages of *Self-Sufficiency* was a horrible idea. You promise yourself

that an idea like this will never again cross your mind. You decide to postpone applying to the creative writing programs at the University of Iowa, Columbia, UC Irvine, and NYU. You will begin writing as soon as possible so that you can have 25 pages of topnotch material to submit with your applications next year.

31. A month passes. You conclude that it is impossible to find time to write while you are still working as a junior brand manager at the diversified multinational food and household products corporation. You do not do things halfway. You need to either write full-time or not at all.

"I have contracted a very serious ear infection," you tell the machine, "and although I am heartsick about it, I must drop your class because I cannot hear well enough to participate in the tradition of oral storytelling and spontaneous feedback."

32. A week later. You take a second job, working evenings and weekends at Ann Taylor. By working two jobs, you hope to save enough money so that by early next year you can resign from the diversified multinational food and household products corporation to write full-time but still maintain a reasonably comfortable lifestyle. In the meantime, working at Ann Taylor entitles you to a 20 percent discount on any clothes, shoes, or accessories you purchase there.

33. Six weeks go by. Business is often slow at Ann Taylor, so you have time to do a great deal of thinking. As you are folding silk camisoles and coordinating suitable trouser, blouse, and blazer combinations to dress

the store mannequins, you think about writing, you think about your life, you think about your father-the-accountant.

You decide that it's your father's fault that you have no time to write. If only he hadn't insisted that you major in business—if only you'd been an English major—your life would be entirely different, entirely better. You'd be a published novelist by now. Shouldn't your father-the-accountant have listened when you told him a career in business was not for you? He never listens to you. But he always listens to your brother. Why is this?

34. Later that night. Your roommate suggests you schedule an appointment with her therapist to talk about your father. You decide that you can't possibly write anything until you resolve your feelings toward your father.

35. A week later. Your roommate's therapist advises you to stop thinking about your father-the-accountant. He tells you to just start writing if you really want to write.

36. Another week goes by. While you try to put the fact that your father has ruined your life behind you, you decide to take up baking. You soon come to believe that, like good writing, a fresh-baked blueberry peach cobbler is both beautiful and artful.

37. Three weeks later. You read an article in *Publisher's Weekly* about the growing popularity of cookbooks. The article mentions a couple who used to own a specialty bookstore, but sold it and decided to take a sabbatical to write a low-fat cookbook. Since then, they have published six cookbooks in eight years, three of which have become bestsellers.

38. The next day. You decide to write a cookbook. Writing a cookbook will be less time-consuming than writing a novel or a book of short stories. You can write a cookbook while you are still employed at Ann Taylor and the diversified multinational food and household products corporation.

Even though you don't have any of your own recipes for the cookbook, your mother and grandmother have hundreds of recipes. You can borrow their recipes, rewrite them, and include the best ones in your cookbook. By doing so, you will be sharing your family's culinary heritage with hundreds of thousands of readers. This could be a very important book.

Best of all, once the cookbook is published, you will be considered an established writer, and just like the first-time novelist you heard read at Barnes & Noble, you will be able to obtain a sizable advance for your next book, quit your two jobs and write full-time, just as you've always wanted to.

You can't wait. You will start first thing in the morning.

Kathy Dalle-Molle is a freelance writer and editor whose book credits include 24 Hours in Cyberspace by Rick Smolan and Jennifer Erwit, Thriving on Chaos by Tom Peters, and Escape from Cluelessness: A Guide for the Organizationally Challenged, by Lee Bolman and Terrence Deal. She also is a regular contributor to Leader to Leader magazine and has written for the Noe Valley Voice for more than nine years.

RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

THE NUMBERS ARE IN for the Noe Valley Chamber Music's May 21 benefit launching their campaign to raise \$70K for a new piano for the Noe Valley Ministry. The Ministry is the venue for the series of Sunday afternoon concerts held once a month from October to May.

The stunning performance of S.F. Symphony pianist Robin Sutherland of Bach's Goldberg Variations raised about \$36,000 (after concert expenses), according to Chamber Music maestro Karen Heather. Karen adds that "a \$25,000 contribution from Phyllis Wattis, a major patron of the arts in San Francisco, gave the campaign a tremendous boost and has allowed us to seriously begin looking for the perfect piano for the hall at Noe Valley Ministry."

By the way, the Chamber Music Series will start this fall on Oct. 29 (5 p.m.), with world-class pianist Peter Grunberg.



Fountain Street resident Joe Morehead visited central Peru in April and had a true N.V. Experience. Here he catches up on our neighborhood while Huana Picchu looms in the background.

Photo courtesy of Joe Morehead

Singing with him will be soprano Kristin Clayton, Adler Fellow with the San Francisco Opera. Karen says, "It will be an all-French concert followed by a champagne

reception and silent auction."

Tickets for this gala event are \$50 and should be reserved by calling NVCM at (415) 333-9444.

☎ ☎ ☎

LONGTIME NOE VALLEON Joe Morehead sent me a picture of himself reading my column in front of the ruins of the lost Inca village of Machu Picchu, located in the Andes Mountains in central Peru.

Joe writes: "I was climbing up Huana Picchu [the mountain behind the lost city], wearing my Thrifty Drug Store—bought 'Noe Valley, California' T-shirt, when I was stopped by a man going the other way.... He told me he was living in Venezuela and his son lived in Noe Valley." Joe said that when the fellow wanted to know what was happening in Noe Valley, "I just pulled out my copy of the Voice and gave it to him, for which he ex-

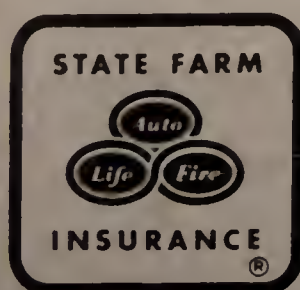


pressed his gratitude and which got me several drinks in the old canteen."

☎ ☎ ☎

THATS ALL, YOU ALL. Have a great vacation, and take your paper with you. We'll see you back here in September, for our big Indian Summer celebration. □

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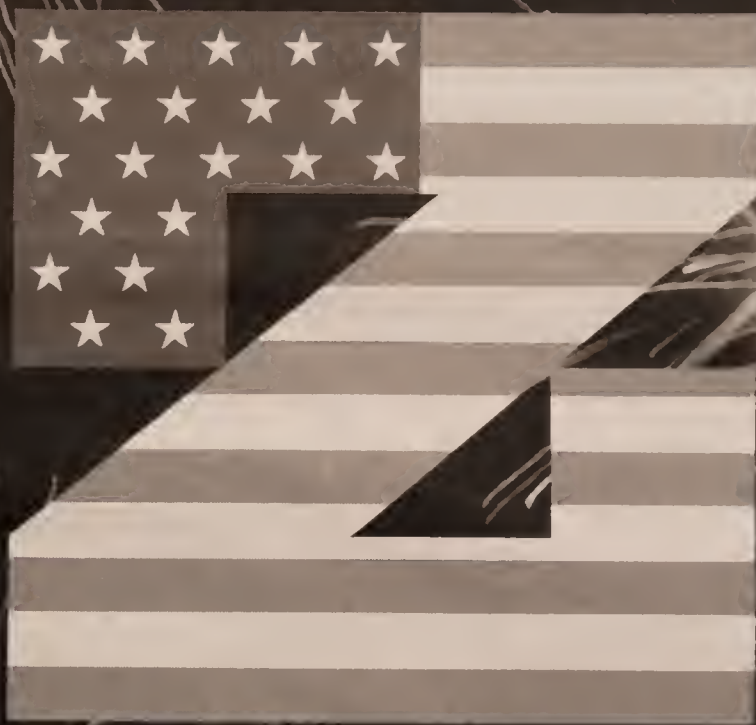


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Fiction

What You Really Want to Do Is Write

by

Kathy Dalle-Molle

1. Third grade. You write your first play, "The Easter Egg Hunt," a semiautobiographical account of a shy, awkward, yet wise-beyond-her-years 9-year-old who gathers the most eggs during the highly competitive annual Easter Egg Hunt at Willow Street Park in San Jose.

2. Fifth grade. You author a compelling essay on the highly touted "very special" hour-long episode of *Rhoda* during which lead character Rhoda Morgenstern marries construction worker Joe Gerard. You argue that the scenes in which Rhoda is running along the streets of Manhattan in her wedding gown and veil to catch the subway to the ceremony lack both humor and tension.

"And why didn't Rhoda do something special with her hair for this 'very special' episode?" you write. "Why no baby's breath, no upsweep, no curls? I was thoroughly disappointed with the hair, the script, and Rhoda's dress."

3. Junior high. You begin writing short fiction. "Tami and Tina Toe Sock," your tale of an obnoxious pair of orange argyle toe socks plotting to do away with their Famolare-wearing owner, earns you an A-.

4. High school. There is little time for writing. You are vice president of the California Scholarship Federation, senior class sergeant-at-arms, a candy striper at Good Samaritan Hospital, and head sales hostess at the Kentucky Fried Chicken near your home.

You plan to write about these experiences someday and really should be keeping a journal, but decide against it. After all, your thoughts are private, and knowing your mother she will discover your journal and read it when she's conducting her weekly snooping session of your bedroom.



5. College freshman. You want to major in English, but your father-the-accountant is not pleased with this decision and insists you major in business. "Writing and literature are fine as hobbies," he tells you, "but the purpose of college is to learn a vocation so you can earn a living. Besides, business can be very creative."

6. Sophomore. You enroll in "Introduction to Fiction Writing." You are the only business major in the class and are proud when you earn a B+ on your final story, "A Fish Out of Water." You are going to make time to keep writing. You really are.

7. Junior. You enroll in "Fiction Writing II." You are impressed that the professor has published two short stories in *Harper's*. Your goal is to revise "A Fish Out of Water" and publish it in *Mademoiselle* or *Seventeen*, but in your first one-on-one conference with the professor, he tells you that the characters in your story are lacking in substance and that the story is running in place. "I cannot encourage you to continue working on this piece," he says.

You wish your instructor from "Introduction to Fiction Writing" was teaching this course. You decide to drop the class.

8. Senior. You have no time to write. You are employed 15 hours a week as an intern at a global marketing and communications firm, and are interviewing with several Fortune 500 and high-technology companies. You must get a job before graduation to please your parents.

9. Two weeks before graduation. You are hired as a Level I junior brand manager by the frozen vegetables division of a diversified multinational food and household products corporation. Your chief responsibilities will be quantifying farm futures data and assisting in the coordination of new product rollouts. Your parents are quite pleased.

10. First year on the job. You spend 40 percent of your salary on DKNY skirts and blazers and Joan and David pumps. You attend industry conferences in Los Angeles, New York, and Santa Fe. On your trip to Los Angeles, Meg Ryan and Dennis Quaid walk past your table at Spago. You observe that Meg Ryan is dressed in the most striking black pantsuit. You're sure it's Giorgio Armani.

Maybe your father was right. Having a business degree isn't so bad after all. You haven't thought about writing in ages.



11. A year later. You receive your first promotion—to Level II junior brand manager. You are now responsible for developing the nomenclature and packaging architecture for all new frozen vegetable product lines. You receive a substantial salary increase, which you look forward to spending on a new fall wardrobe. Unfortunately, upon making visits to Saks and Neiman-Marcus, you learn that the skirts, blouses, trousers, and blazers in the new DKNY fall line look similar to those you already own.

12. Two months pass. You begin experiencing spontaneous facial twitches during the frozen vegetables division's weekly concept development and refinement meetings. While on conference calls, you often find yourself picking uncontrollably at the cuticles of your index fingers. Your roommate complains that your incessant teeth grinding while you sleep is so loud she can hear it through the wall that separates your bedrooms. You decide you don't want to work in business after all. What you really want to do is write.

13. Another month goes by. You decide to stop spending all your spare time shopping for clothes and accessories and instead start spending all your spare time writing, reading, and attending literary events at bookstores, except when there is a really big sale at Ann Taylor.

14. Three weeks later. You enroll in "Word Rap," a Saturday morning free-writing class. At the first session, when the instructor gives the prompt, "I see the deep blue sea," you write about the lavender sailor dress your mother forced you to wear to your grandparents' anniversary party when you were 15. When she reads the next prompt, "In the jungle, I saw but one eye of the Bengal tiger," you write about when you were 13 and became enraged with your brother because he was teasing you about liking a certain boy in your history class. You write that you bit your brother on the arm so hard that you left teeth marks.

15. A week later. You begin subscribing to *Harper's*, the *New Yorker*, and *Publisher's Weekly*. You scan every issue of *Harper's* and the *New Yorker* to make sure that the edi-

tors have not yet published a short story with plot and characters similar to the plot and characters in the short story you're planning to write. You monitor the reviews of forthcoming books in *Publisher's Weekly* to make certain no "coming of age" novels are being published with plot and characters similar to the plot and characters in the "coming of age" novel you are planning to write.

You start filling your bookshelves with books about writing: *Writing Past Dark*, *On Writer's Block*, *Surviving a Writer's Life*, *The Weekend Novelist*, *Is There a Book Inside You?*, *The Way of the Woman Writer*, *The Writer's Journey*, and *How to Write the Story of Your Life*. You promise yourself that you will start reading these books as soon as the nutritional claims are verified and the packaging redesign is completed for the new line of frozen petite peas you're assisting in rolling out next month.

You begin making a list of literary agents. You also start compiling a list of successful authors of literary fiction who did not begin writing fiction until they were your age but now earn a substantial income from writing novels.

16. Six weeks pass. You attend a reading at Barnes & Noble by a first-time author of a "coming of age" novel who did not begin writing fiction until she was your age.

When the first-time novelist steps up to the podium, you immediately fall in love with the gorgeous black leather double-breasted blazer she is wearing over a lilac-colored silk blouse. Her black leather hobo bag—you think it's Prada—is breathtaking. You want this bag. You need this bag. You know having this bag will make you a great writer.

During the question-and-answer period following her reading, the first-time novelist introduces the "mentor in my writing life"—a tall thin man with wire-rim glasses and no visible facial hair who is sitting in the front row of the audience, looking on admiringly at the first-time novelist. The mentor lives right here in your city and makes his living teaching private writing workshops.

17. The next day. You want to enroll in the mentor's private writing workshop, but it is quite expensive. Still, it must be worth it. You believe that fate is guiding you because your latest quarterly bonus from the diversified multinational food and household products corporation is about equal to the cost of the mentor's workshop.

18. An hour later. You call to enroll, and the mentor tells you that he must review your work before accepting you into the workshop. You haven't written anything since college, except for memos, proposals, and the free-write exercises in "Word Rap." You explain to him that you work long hours as a Level II junior brand manager and, consequently, do not have much spare time to write.

He seems sympathetic. "Many of my students have a difficult time balancing their work life with their writing life," he tells you.

You feel reassured and send him "A Fish Out of Water."



19. A week goes by. The mentor phones to tell you that he is accepting you into the workshop. All you need to do is send him a check. He seems to like "A Fish Out of Water."

"The story needs to be developed," he says, "but there are some very lovely paragraphs in it." He tells you he particularly enjoyed the fifth paragraph on the fourth page.

Before hanging up, he asks, "Who do you like to read?"

"Oh, modern women authors," you say. You hesitate for a moment and then spit out "Grace Paley, Alice Munro, and Lorrie Moore." You have seen these authors mentioned in *Publisher's Weekly*. You know they are well respected.

When you hang up the phone, you are bursting. A mentor is exactly what you need to get started writing.



20. Three weeks pass. The night of the mentor's first workshop, you spend two hours deciding what to wear. You select a black DKNY skirt with a hip-slung silver belt, a ribbed black turtleneck, black crochet tights, and a pair of black square-toed midcalf boots along with your new black leather Prada hobo bag. You are the best-dressed person in the class. You look like a writer should look.

21. That same night. During his introductory remarks, the first-time novelist's mentor talks about editing a story by Tobias Wolff—"Toby," he calls him. He mentions a discussion he had with Joyce Carol Oates and the famous literary agent Amanda "Binky" Urban over drinks at the Algonquin Hotel. You are impressed.

Next, he ambles to the chalkboard and draws a diagram of plot. You remember this diagram from your "Introduction to Writing Fiction" class in college, but you take copious notes as the mentor begins to offer his thoughts on plot structure.

Ten minutes later, he puts the chalk down and returns to his seat at the head of the workshop roundtable.

"This is the first and last lecture I will be giving in this workshop," he announces. "There will be no written feedback on stories in this workshop. Instead, we will work in the oral tradition of storytelling. We will read aloud, listen, and react spontaneously."

You are disappointed that you will not be receiving written feedback about "A Fish Out of Water," but you perk up during the break when you overhear two of the other students talking about the mentor.

"Yeah, I heard he had something to do with Ethan Hawke getting his first novel published," says one student.

"Really?" says the other student. "I heard he helped Tama Janowitz, Jay McInerney, and Brett Easton Ellis with their first novels."

22. Four weeks pass. You are growing discouraged. You have been so busy analyzing gross sales, margins, and operating expenses for the new line of frozen petite peas that you have found no time to revise "A Fish Out of Water." Besides, many of the students in the mentor's workshop have MFAs. Some already have published stories in literary journals. Most of them don't have a demanding day job like yours. They work at coffeehouses or as office temps so they have more time to write than you do.

23. A week later. You still have not revised "A Fish Out of Water," and you're sched-

Continued on Page 46

The Last Page

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, or poetry for publication on *The Last Page*. Please mail manuscripts, which should be no more than 1,200 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email jaxvoice@aol.com. Don't forget to include your name, address, and phone number, and an SASE if you want your manuscript returned. We look forward to hearing from you.